

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No.14

12p

AUS 40c NZ



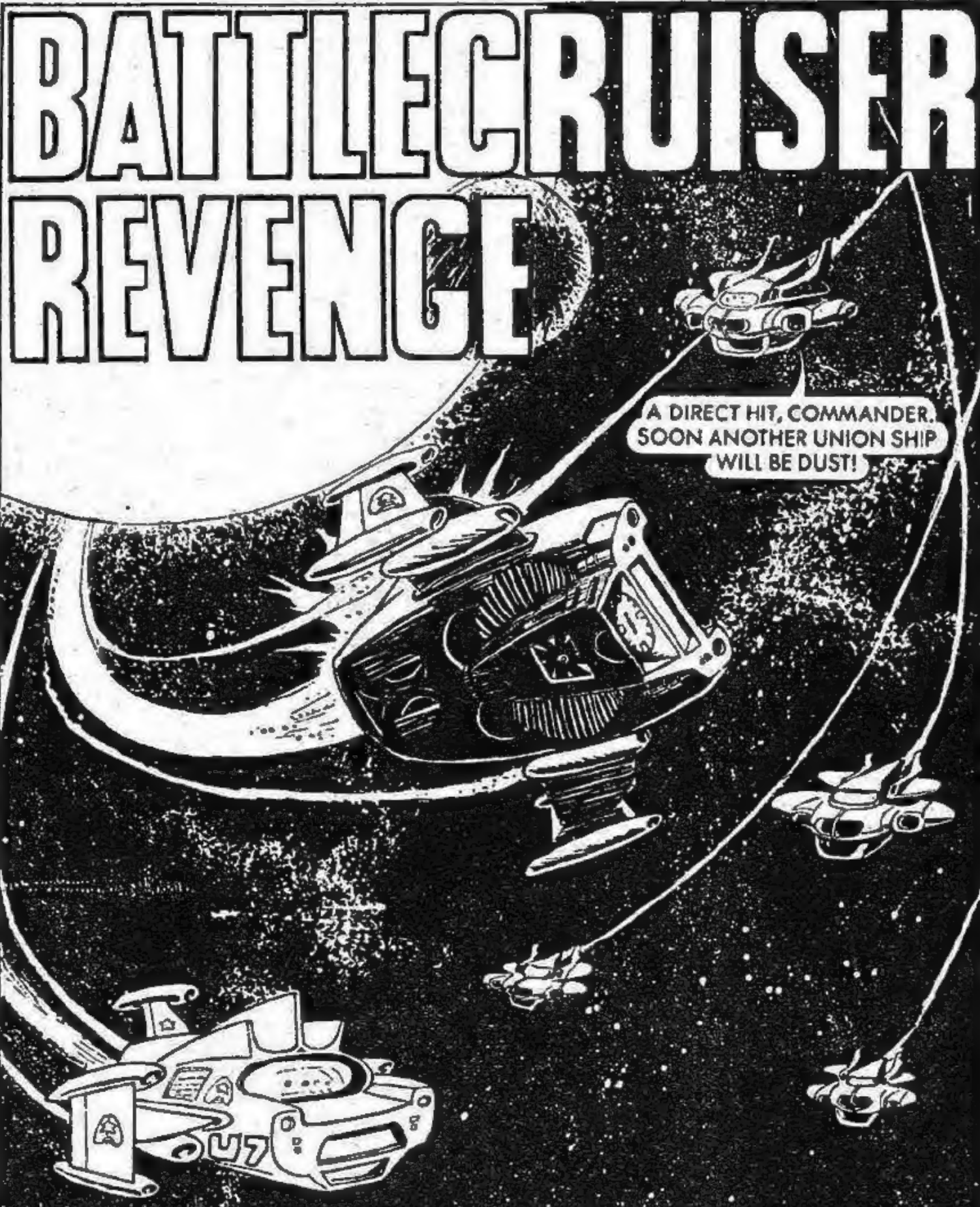
BATTLECRUISER REVENGE



STARBLAZER

Over the years Earth had colonised many planets. One of the largest colonies claimed independence, but the Terran Council refused. The colonists resorted to violence. A powerful Terran force crushed the rebellion, and the colonists were expelled to a distant planet . . . Pi Centurai. Over hundreds of years the Centurai became almost as strong as the Earth Union. Now they returned, seeking revenge . . .

BATTLECRUISER REVENGE



A DIRECT HIT, COMMANDER.
SOON ANOTHER UNION SHIP
WILL BE DUST!

27TH CENTURY, A.D. A BITTER WAR CONTINUED UNABATED BETWEEN THE TERRAN CONTROLLED UNION, AND THE RUTHLESS CENTURAI, WHO HAD BROKEN AWAY FROM THE UNION OVER TWO CENTURIES PREVIOUSLY. A BATTLE RAGED IN DEEP SPACE.

ON BOARD THE UNION SHIP, LIEUTENANT JERRY GALLEN ASSESSED THE POSITION.

THE CAPTAIN'S INJURED, JERRY. YOU'LL HAVE TO ASSUME COMMAND!

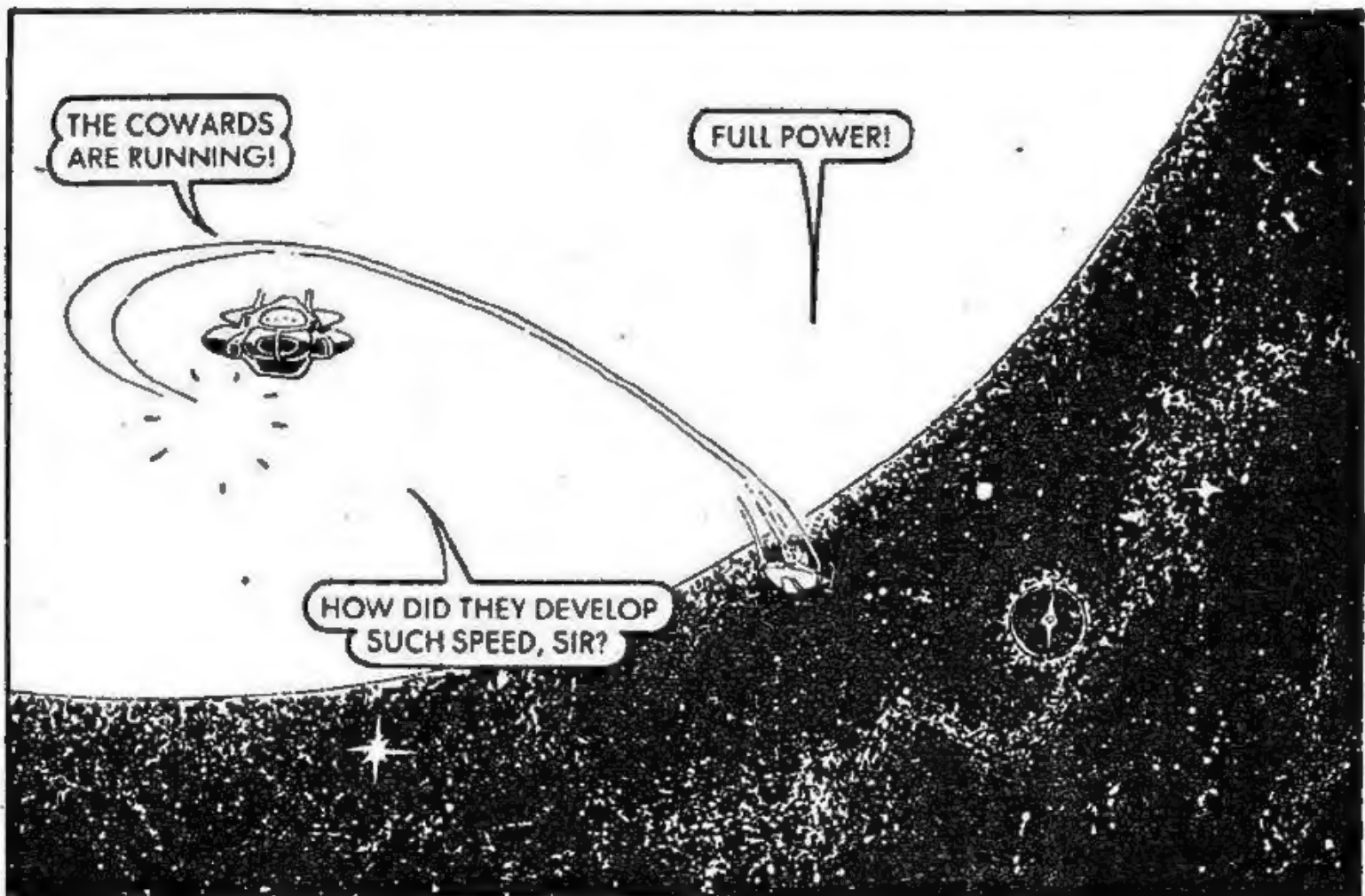
WHAT A TIME TO GET MY FIRST COMMAND! WHAT'S OUR STATUS?



THE FORCEFIELD WAS NEARLY BREACHED ON THAT LAST SALVO.

WE'RE SITTING DUCKS HERE. FEED ALL THE ENERGY INTO THE DRIVES AND ACCELERATE FULL ASTERN—WE MIGHT ESCAPE!





YOUR IDEA WORKED! WELL DONE, JERRY. NOW IT'S BACK TO THE SPACEPORT FOR A REFIT.

NOT YET! THE CENTURAI WILL THINK WE'VE FLED. HOPEFULLY THEY'LL HAVE LOWERED THEIR OWN FORCEFIELD.

IF WE CIRCLE ROUND BEHIND THAT STAR AND COME UP BEHIND THEM, I RECKON WE MIGHT JUST WIN THE DAY YET!

THE CENTURAI SHIP GAVE UP THE CHASE.

SHALL WE PURSUE THEM, COMMANDER?

NO, THEY COULD BE ANYWHERE NOW. LOWER THE FORCEFIELD, NO NEED TO WASTE ENERGY!

THE UNION SHIP'S SENSORS PICKED UP THE FADING FORCEFIELD.

THEIR FIELD HAS
BEEN DROPPED, SIR!

PULSAR CANNON...
FIRE!



DIRECT HIT... 100% DAMAGE.



THE BATTERED SHIP RETURNED TO EARTH SPACEPORT RK41.

NOW FOR A FULL REPORT TO THE
SPACEMARSHAL—AND A REST!

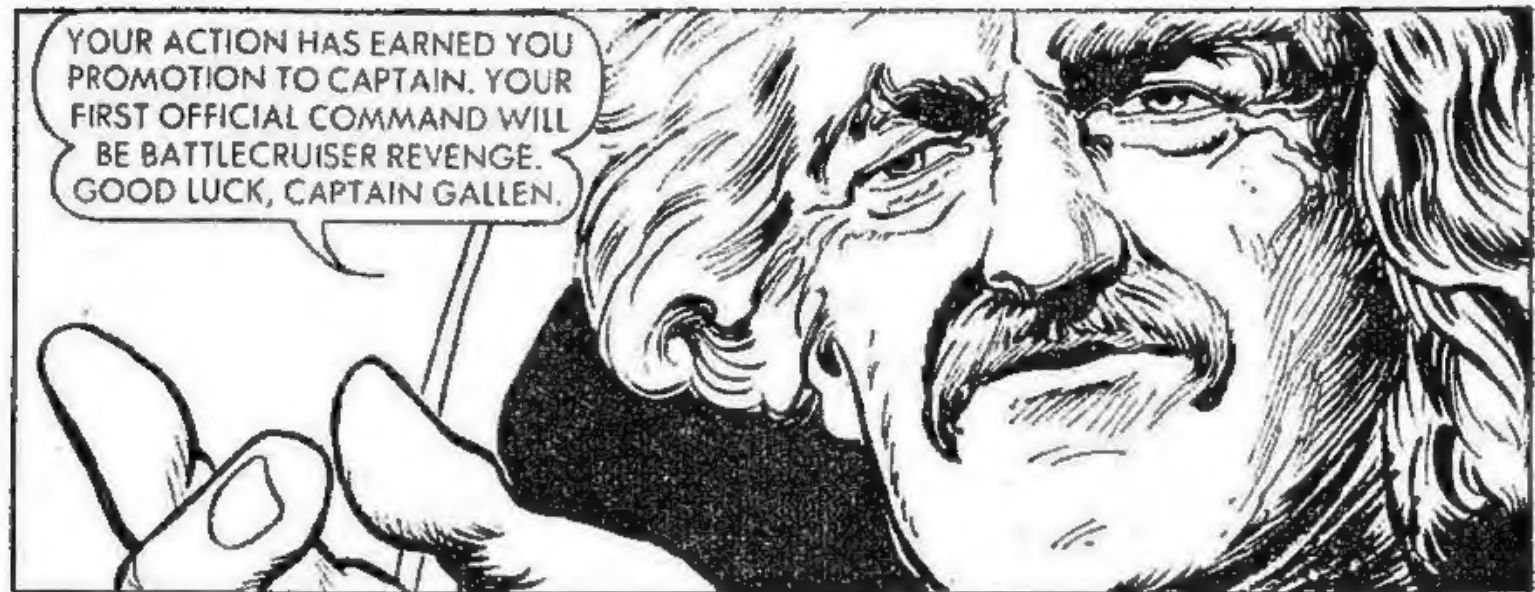


GALLEN AND HIS CREW REPORTED TO THE SPACEMARSHAL.

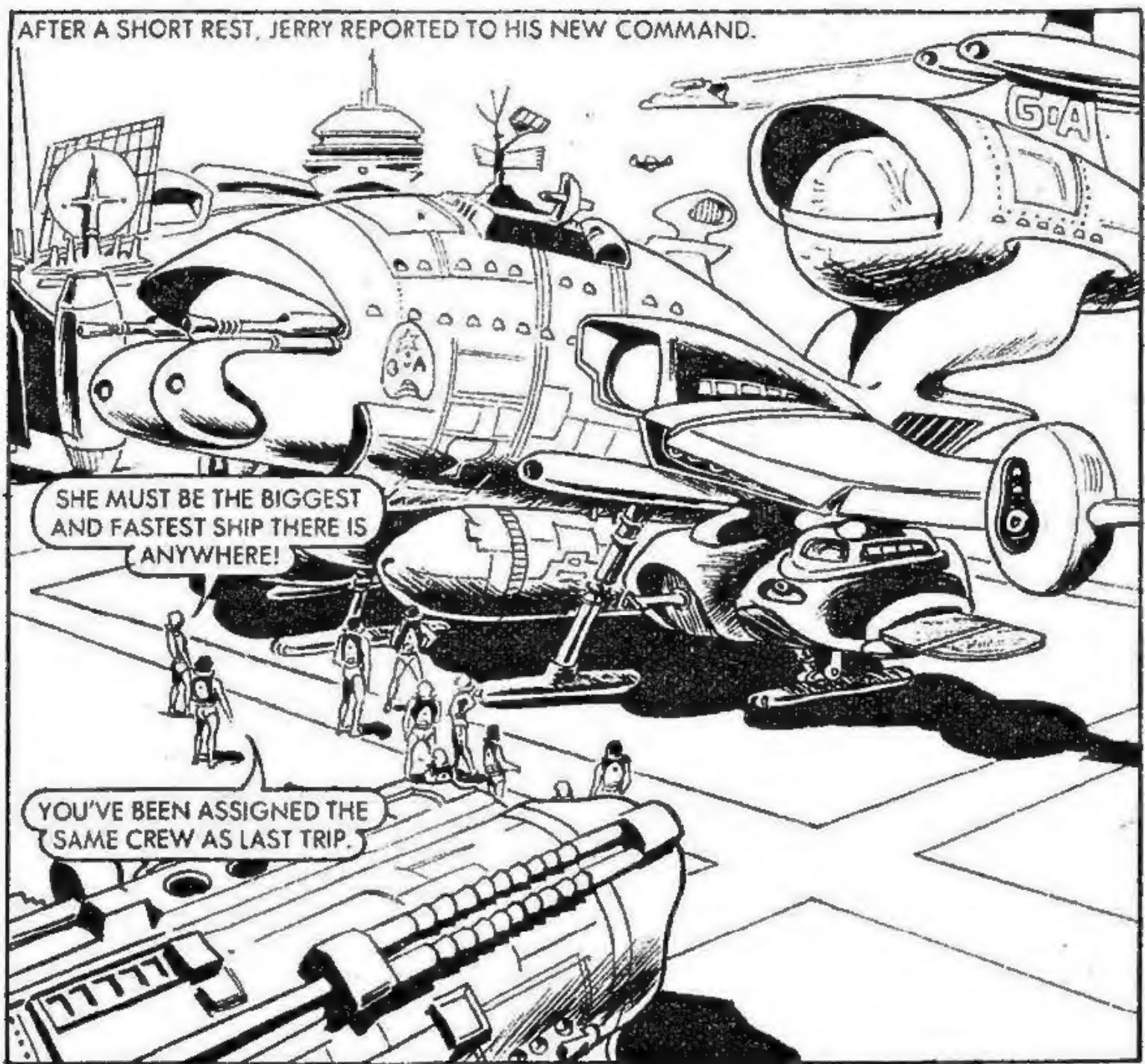
... AND THE REST IS
IN THE REPORT SIR!

EXCELLENT, GALLEN, EXCELLENT!





YOUR ACTION HAS EARNED YOU PROMOTION TO CAPTAIN. YOUR FIRST OFFICIAL COMMAND WILL BE BATTLECRUISER REVENGE. GOOD LUCK, CAPTAIN GALLEN.



AFTER A SHORT REST, JERRY REPORTED TO HIS NEW COMMAND.

SHE MUST BE THE BIGGEST AND FASTEST SHIP THERE IS ANYWHERE!

YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED THE SAME CREW AS LAST TRIP.

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE JERRY RECEIVED HIS ORDERS.

OUR FIRST MISSION IS TO ESCORT ADMIRAL BRANT TO PRAXIS. HE WILL TRY TO PERSUADE THE PRAXIANS OF THE THREAT THE CENTURAI POSE TO THIS WHOLE GLACTIC SECTOR. AS YOU KNOW, PRAXIS IS NEUTRAL, SO THE ADMIRAL WILL BE TRAVELLING IN AN UNARMED TROOP TRANSPORT.

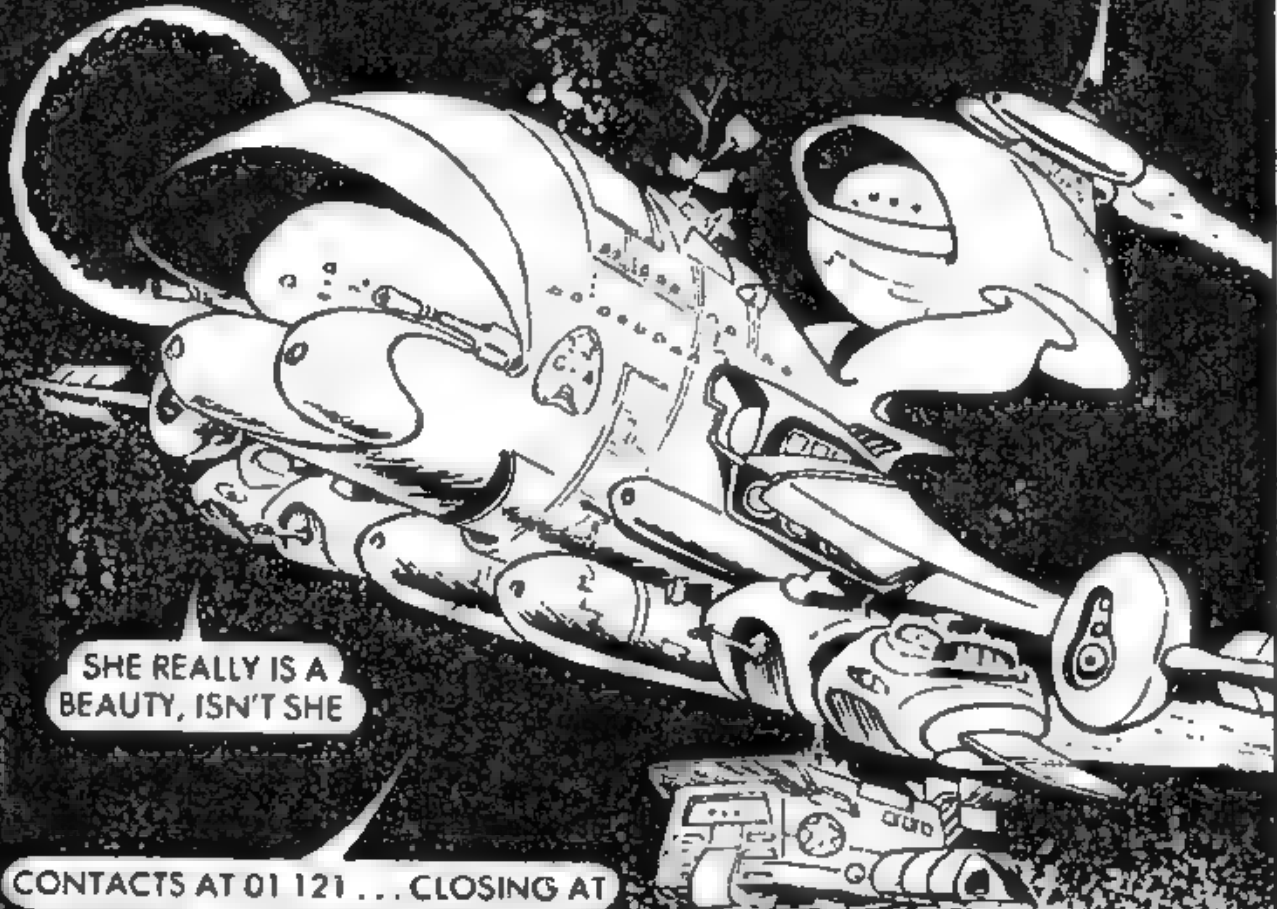
IF PRAXIS JOINS US, OUR COMBINED FORCES WILL DEFEAT THE CENTURAI. IF NOT, THE CENTURAI MAY WELL DEFEAT PRAXIS AND AFTER THAT—US.



A SPY WAS ALREADY LEAKING THE UNION'S CAREFULLY LAID PLANS.



IN DEEP SPACE, BATTLECRUISER REVENGE PROWLED RELENTLESSLY.



SHE REALLY IS A
BEAUTY, ISN'T SHE

CONTACTS AT 01 121 ... CLOSING AT
FACTOR 7.



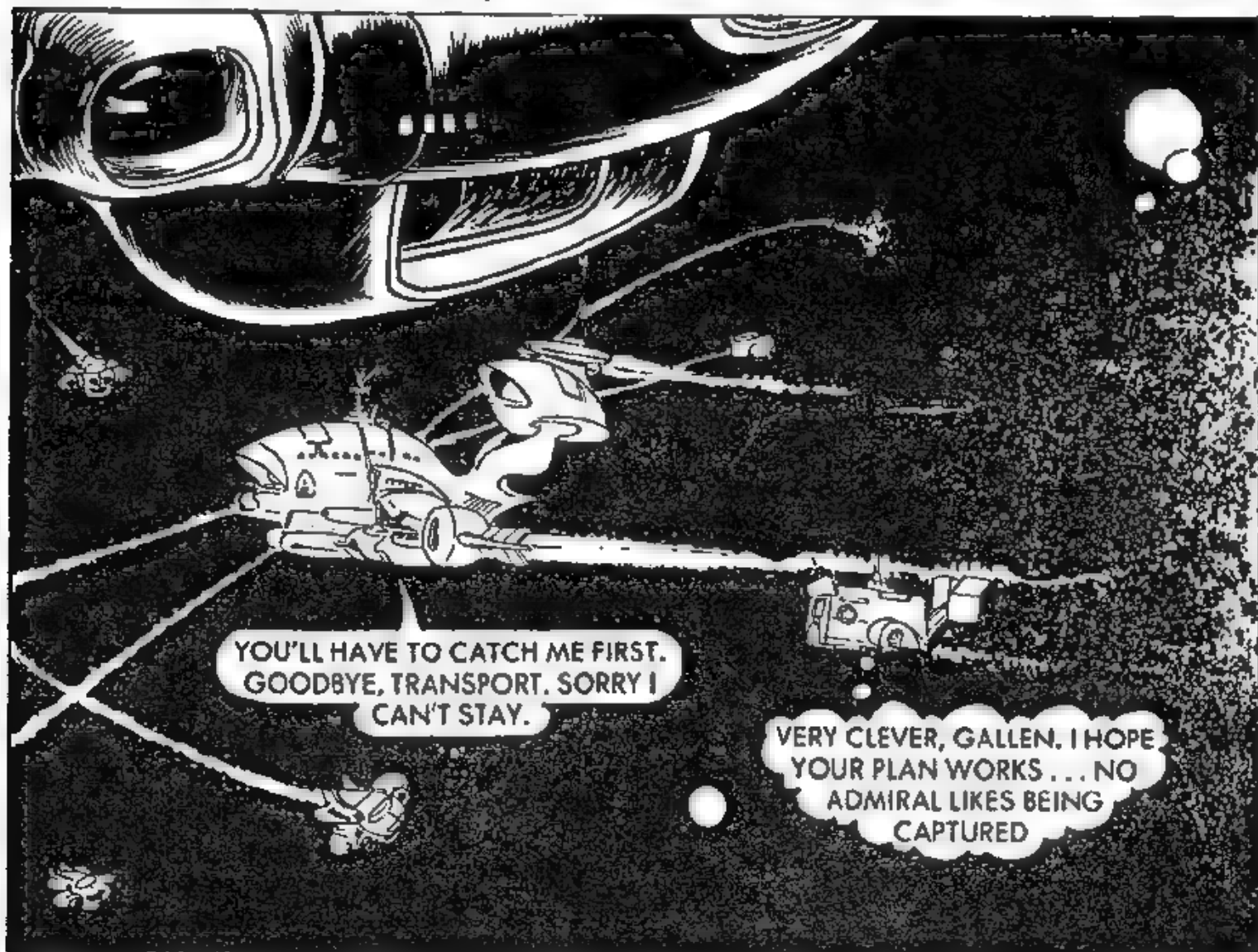
CENTURAI! SOMEONE MUST HAVE
KNOWN WE WERE COMING!

WE CAN'T FIGHT ALL THOSE AT
ONCE. ONE MIGHT GET
THROUGH TO THE
TRANSPORT.



TO UNION SHIP, REVENGE.
SURRENDER IMMEDIATELY, OR BE
REDUCED TO ATOMS! WE KNOW
YOU HAVE ADMIRAL BRANT WITH
YOU.

WE'LL TRY TO BLUFF OUR WAY OUT
BY MAKING THEM THINK THE
ADMIRAL'S ON THIS SHIP.



YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST.
GOODBYE, TRANSPORT. SORRY I
CAN'T STAY.

VERY CLEVER, GALLEN. I HOPE
YOUR PLAN WORKS... NO
ADMIRAL LIKES BEING
CAPTURED

AS BATTLECRUISER REVENGE SPED AWAY

SCREEN FULL
MAGNIFICATION. ANYTHING?

NOTHING, SIR.

THEY HAVEN'T FALLEN FOR IT
THE CENTURAI MUST HAVE
KNOWN WHICH SHIP THE
ADMIRAL WAS ON. FULL SPEED
BACK TO THE TRANSPORT.

TOO LATE. LOOKS AS IF
THEY TRIED TO FIGHT FOR IT.

NO, PETE. THEY WERE UNARMED. THE
CENTURAI KNEW THE ADMIRAL WAS
ON BOARD THAT SHIP. SEND DOWN
A TEAM TO CHECK OUT THE
WRECKAGE.



BACK ON BOARD

NO BODIES AMONGST
THE WRECKAGE, SIR

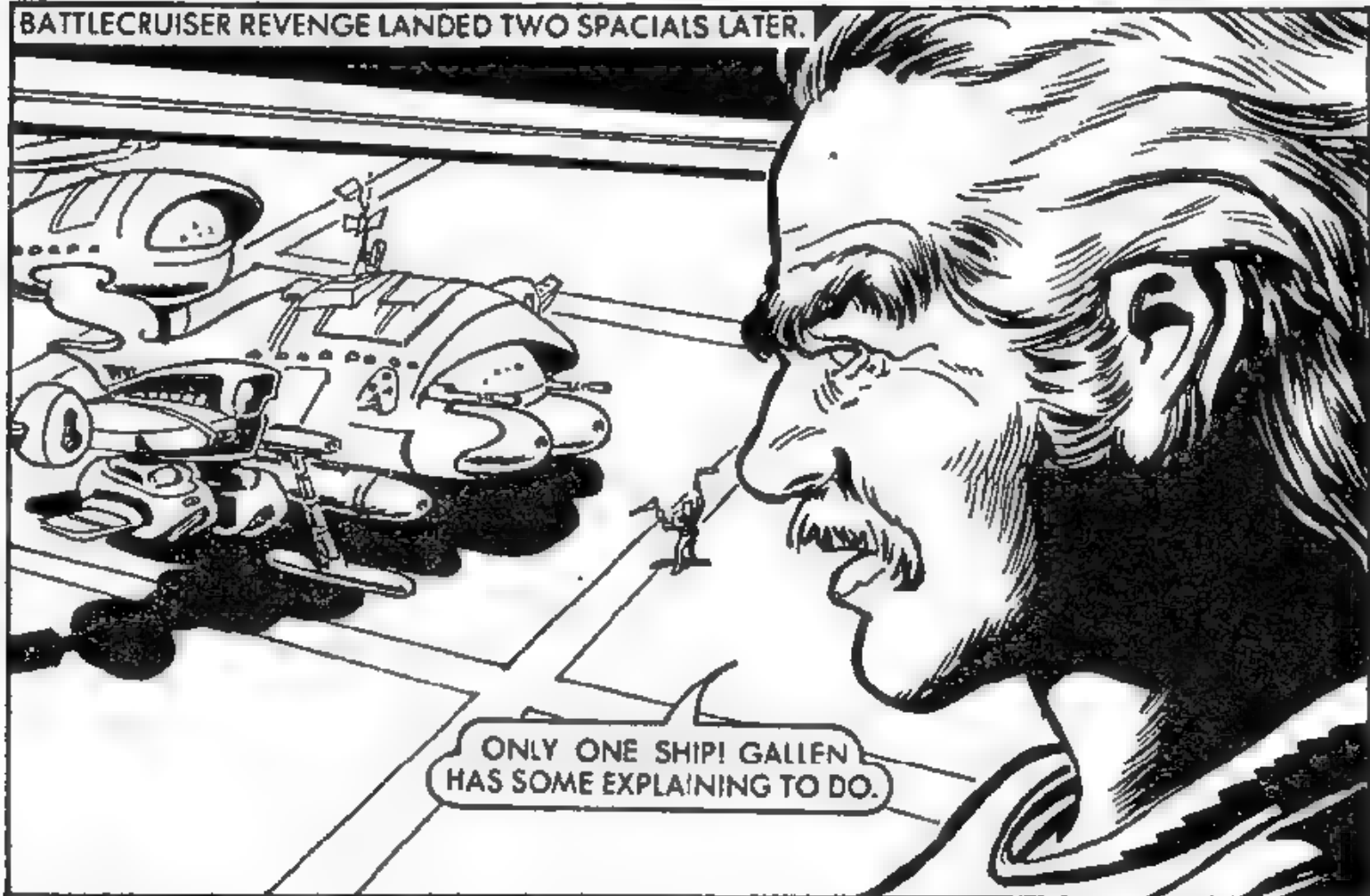
NO BODIES THAT
I CAN SEE.

THAT MEANS THE WHOLE CREW WAS
CAPTURED, THEN THE TRANSPORT
DESTROYED.

ODD, ISN'T IT?



BATTLECRUISER REVENGE LANDED TWO SPACIALS LATER.





SPACEMARSHAL GREGORY WISHES
TO SEE YOU, CAPTAIN GALEN.

I'M NOT SURPRISED!
WELL, HERE GOES!

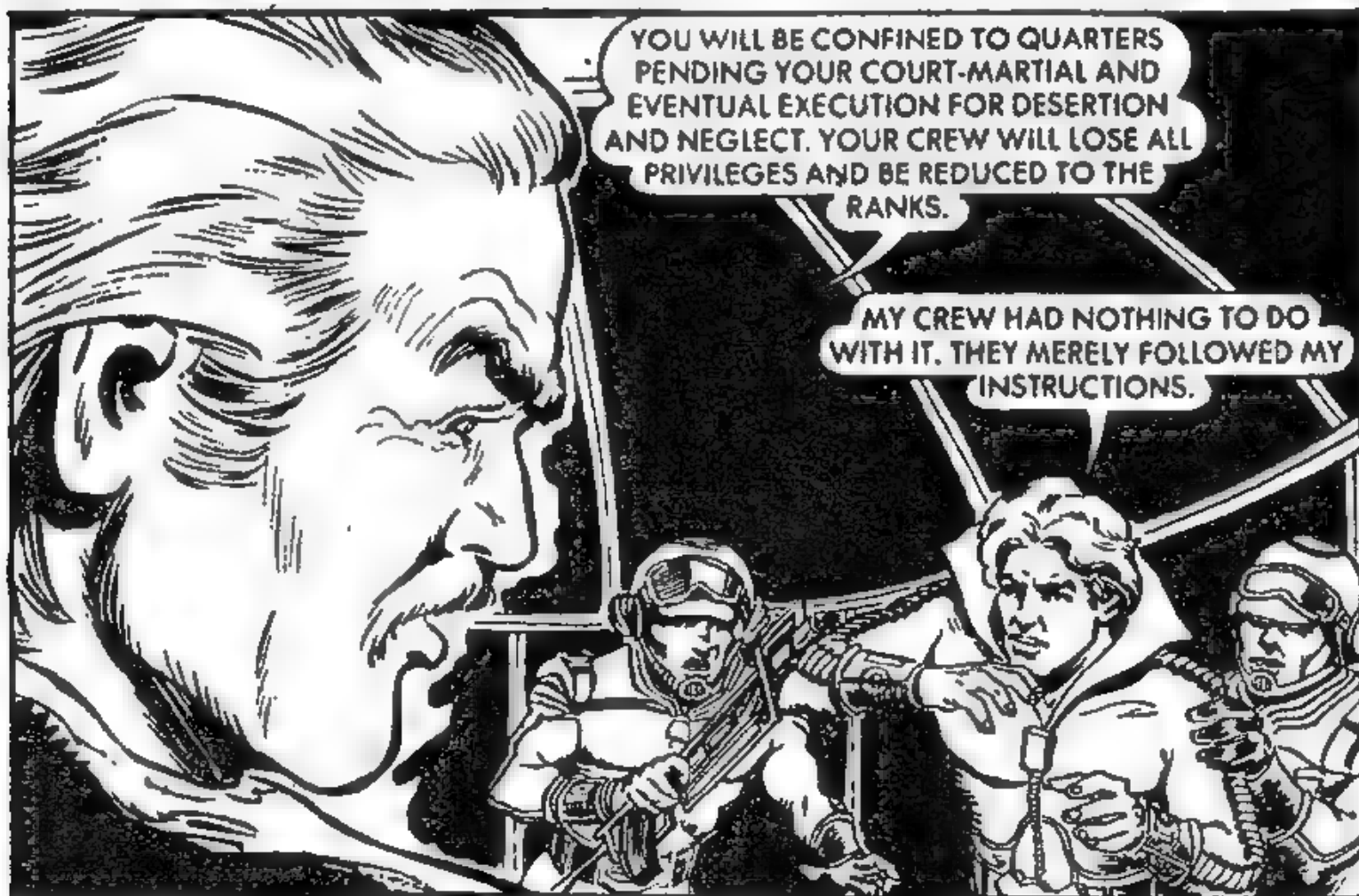
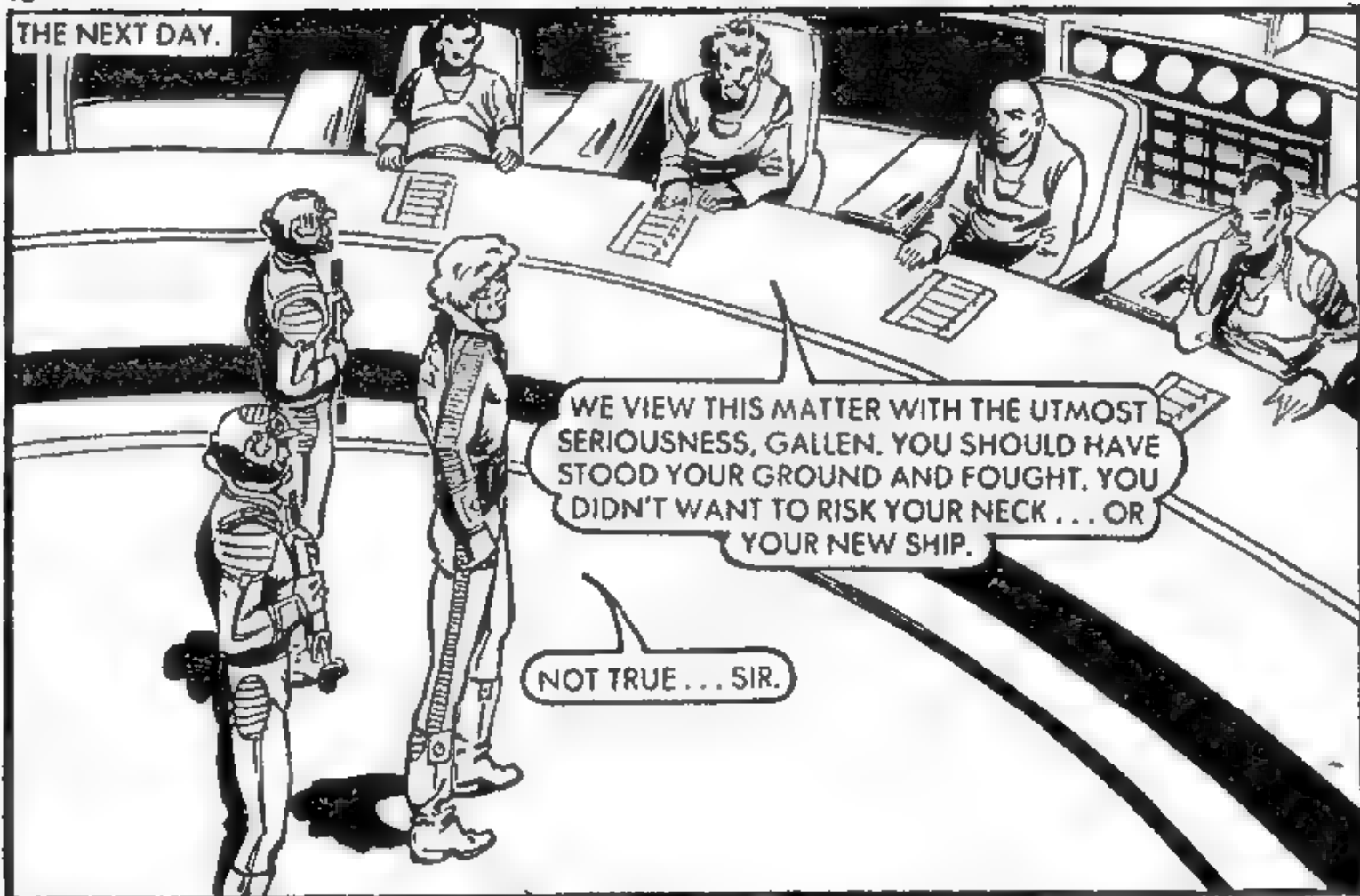


IN GREGORY'S OFFICE.

... BUT THEY WEREN'T TAKEN IN.
THE CENTURAI KNEW EXACTLY
WHERE TO FIND THE ADMIRAL.

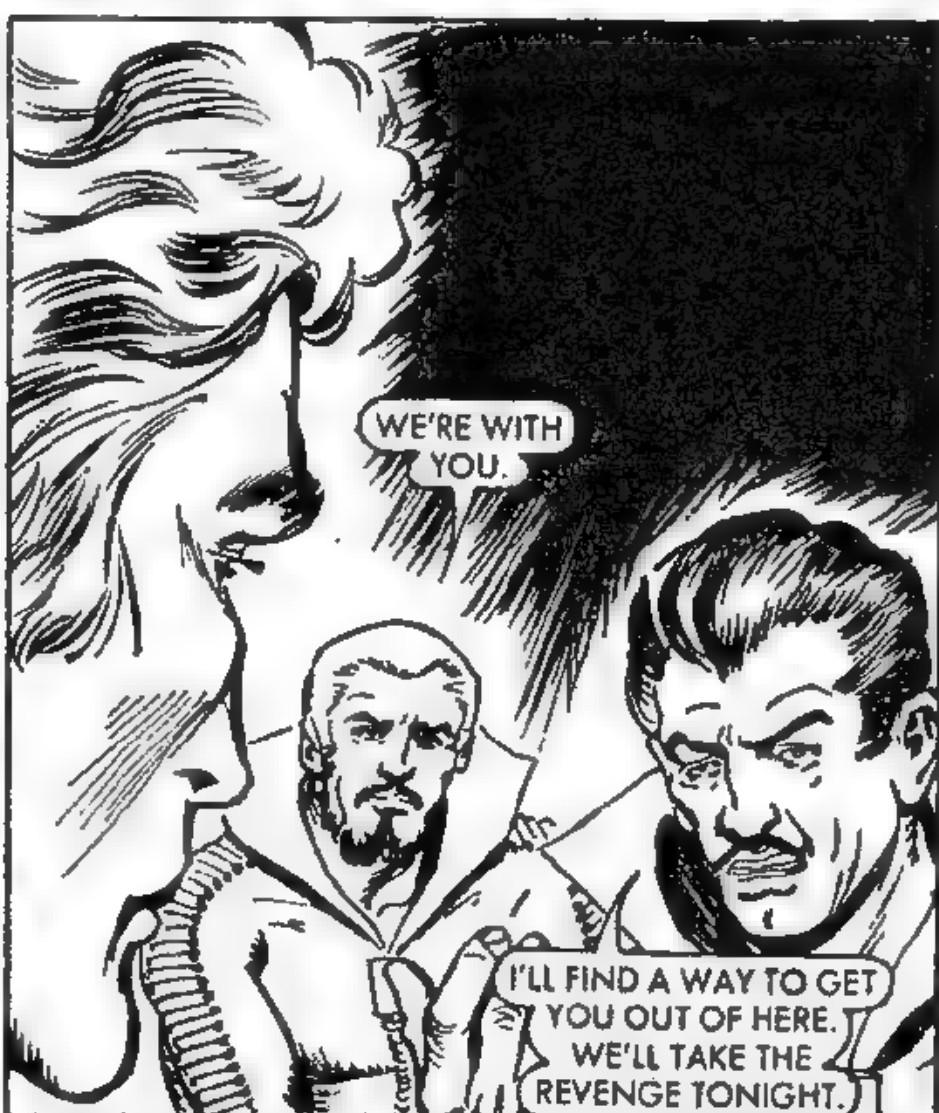
YOU DESERTED YOUR POST. REPORT TO
COMMAND OPERATIONS ROOM IN THE
MORNING!

THE NEXT DAY.





TWO OF JERRY'S OFFICERS WERE GIVEN PERMISSION TO VISIT HIM.



ALTHOUGH TELEPORTING WAS DANGEROUS, IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GET JERRY OUT UNDETECTED. FROM UNDER HIS GUARDS' NOSES HE WAS TRANSPORTED TO A HANGAR WHERE HIS CREW WAITED.



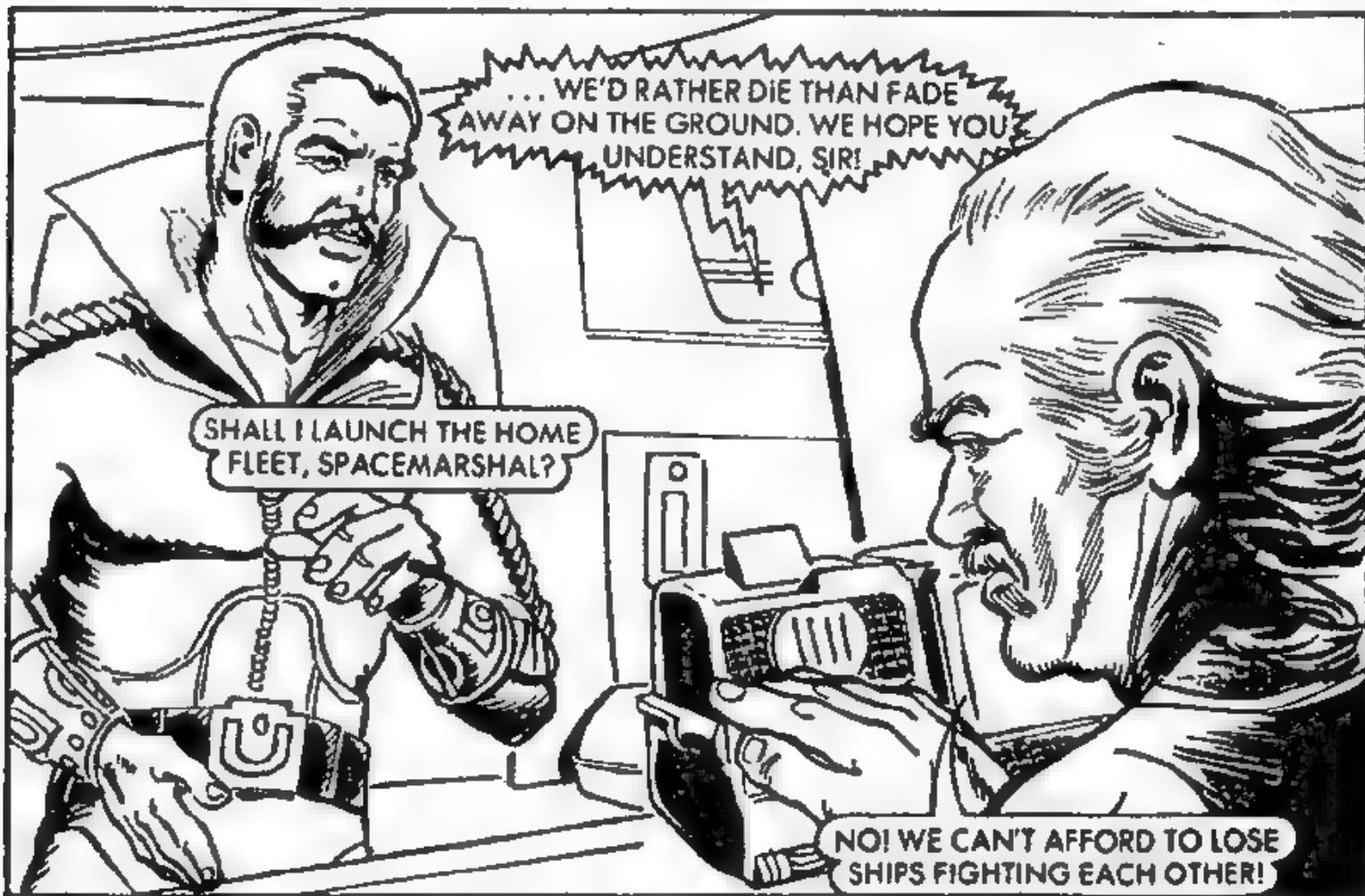
WE'VE LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN DISGRACE HERE! WHAT DO YOU SAY?

WE'RE WITH YOU, CAPTAIN.

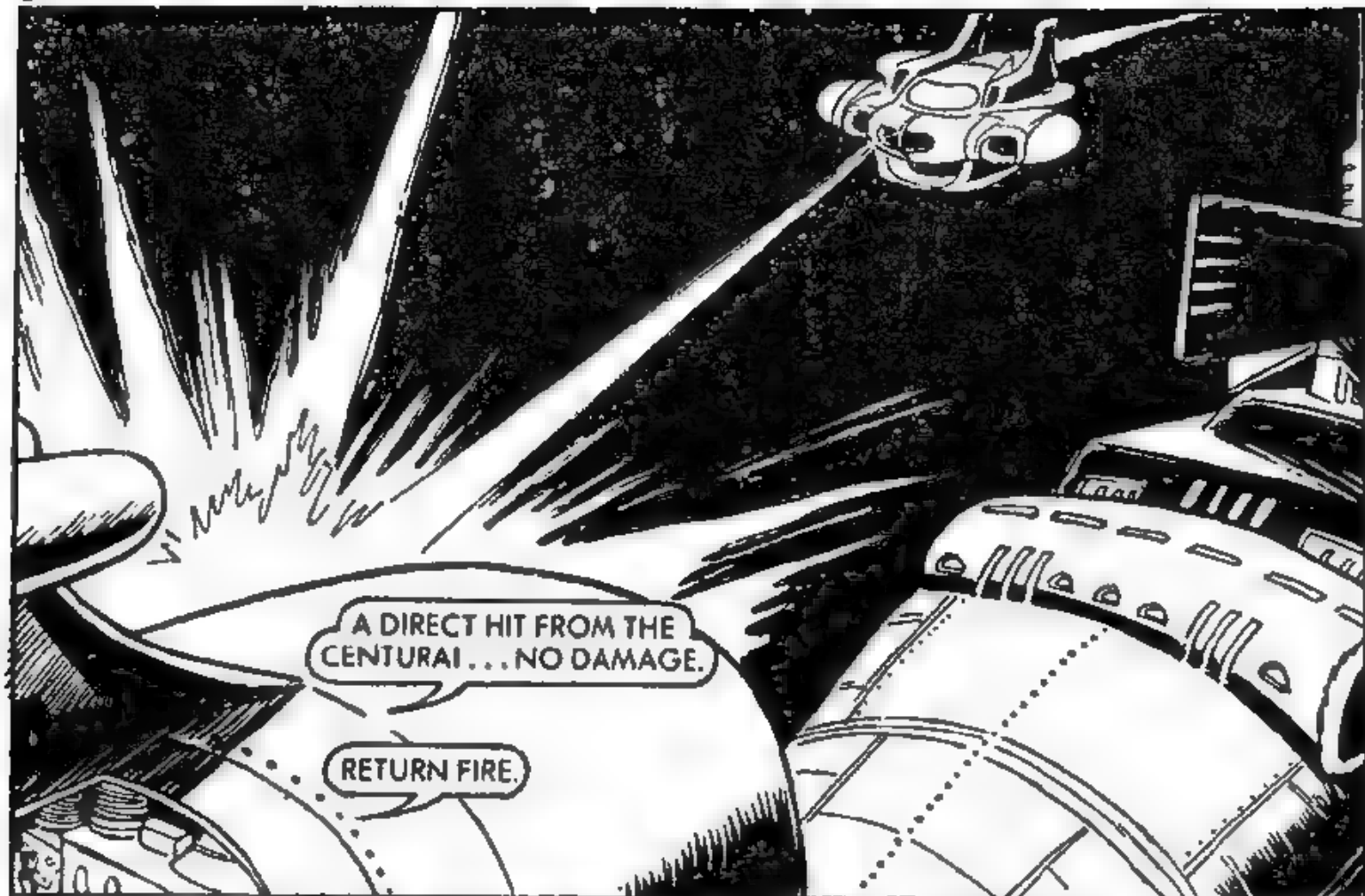
THE CREW EASILY BOARDED REVENGE.

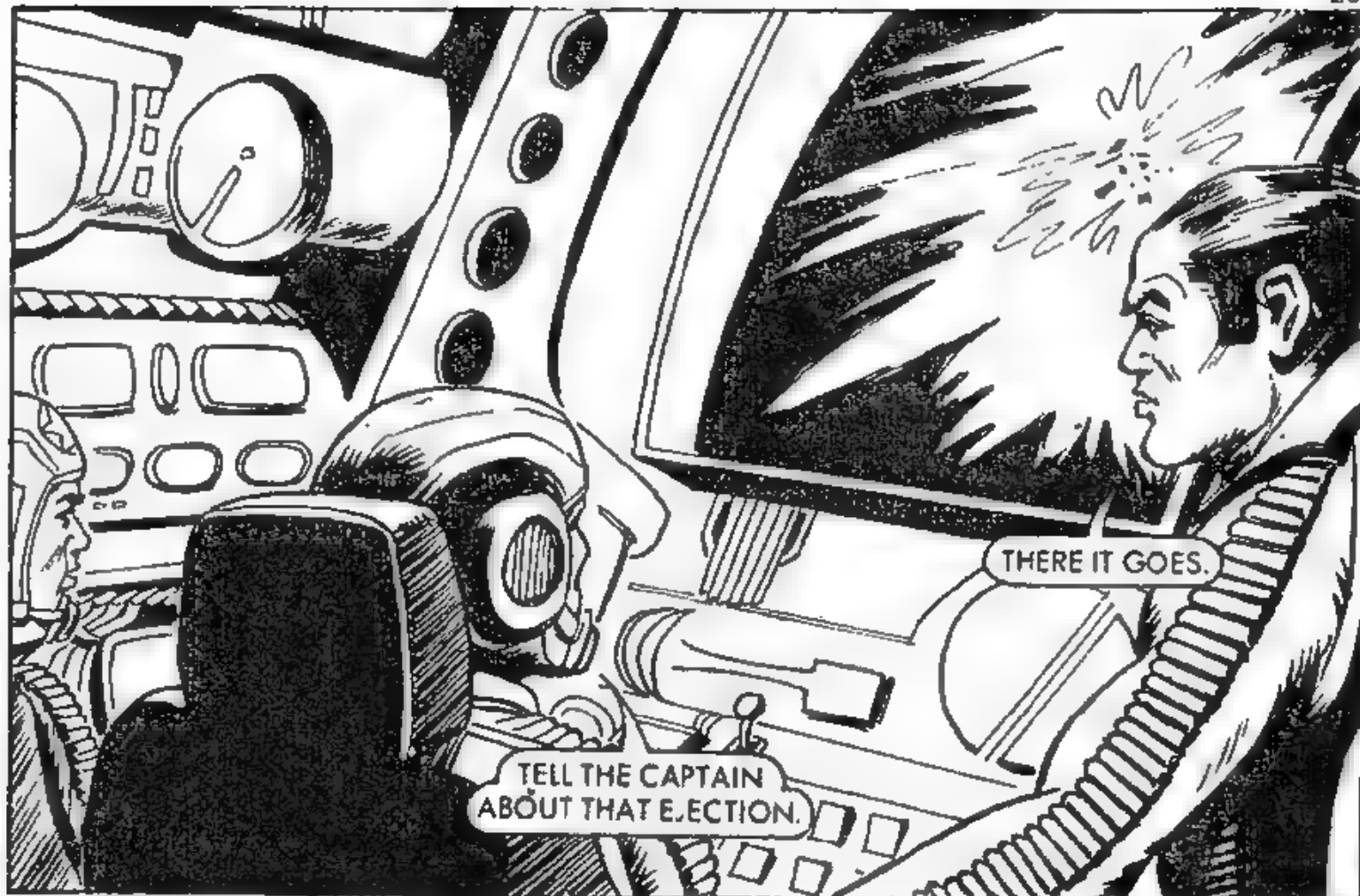


OKAY... PLOT A COURSE FOR SECTOR A7. COMMENCE LIFT OFF SEQUENCE.





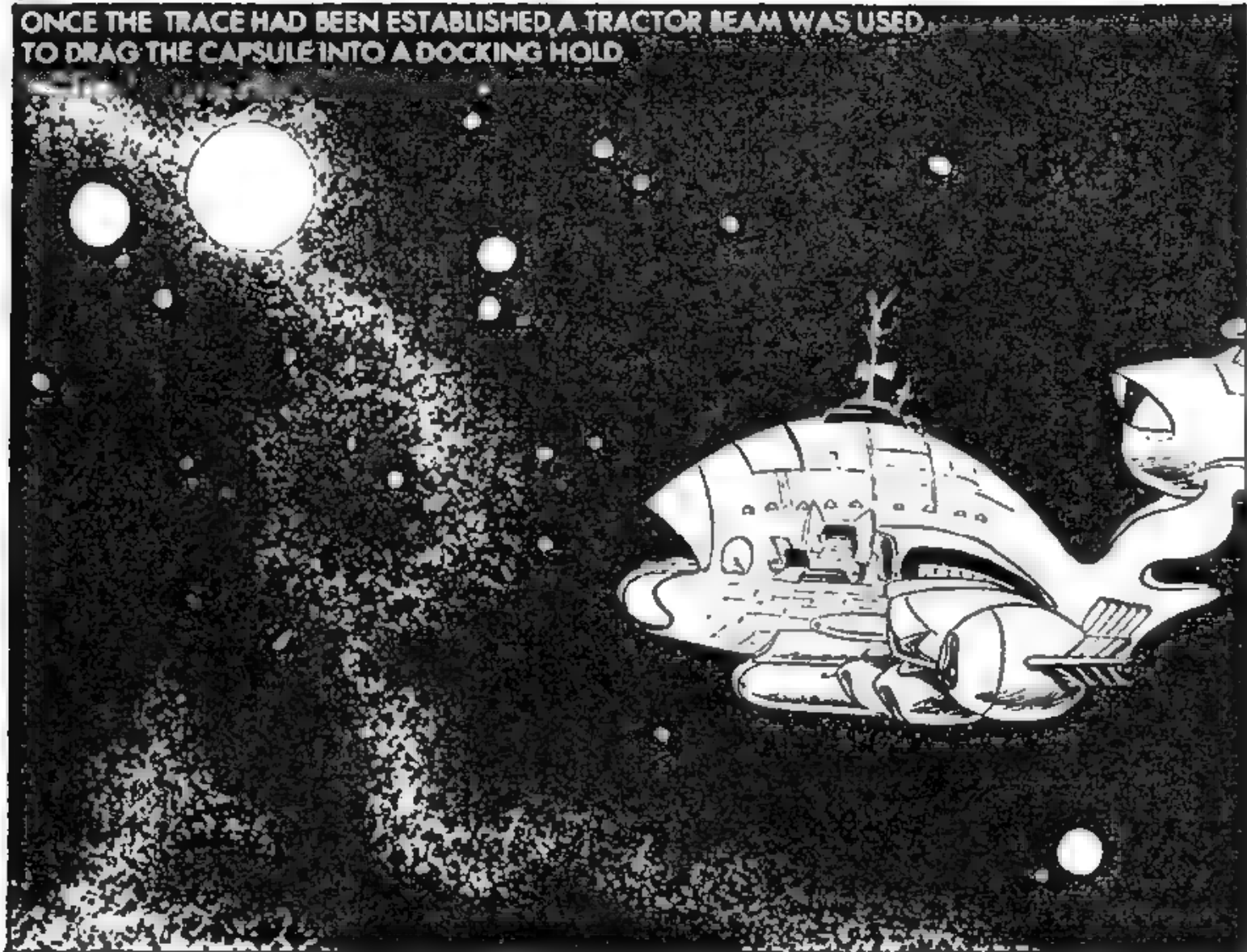


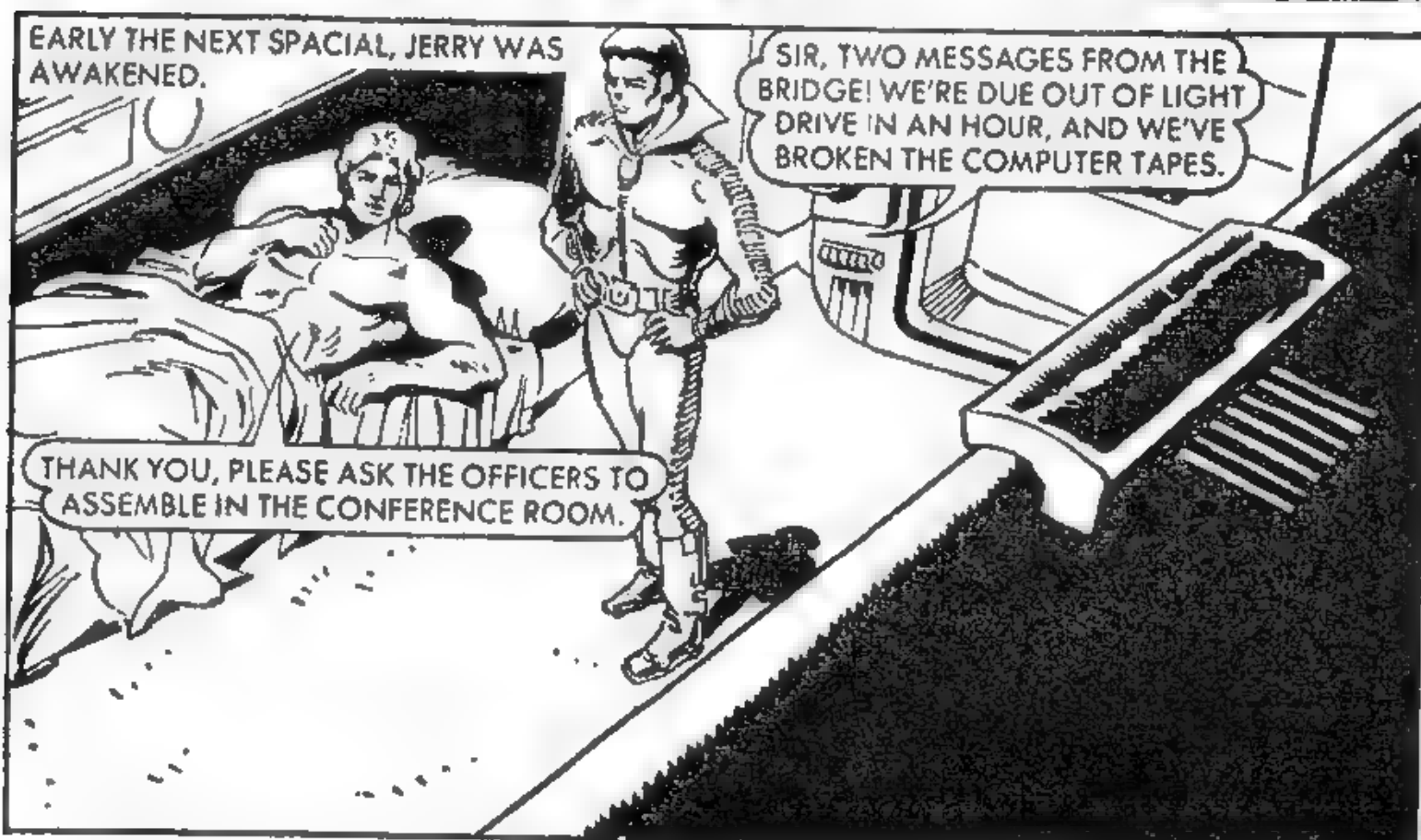


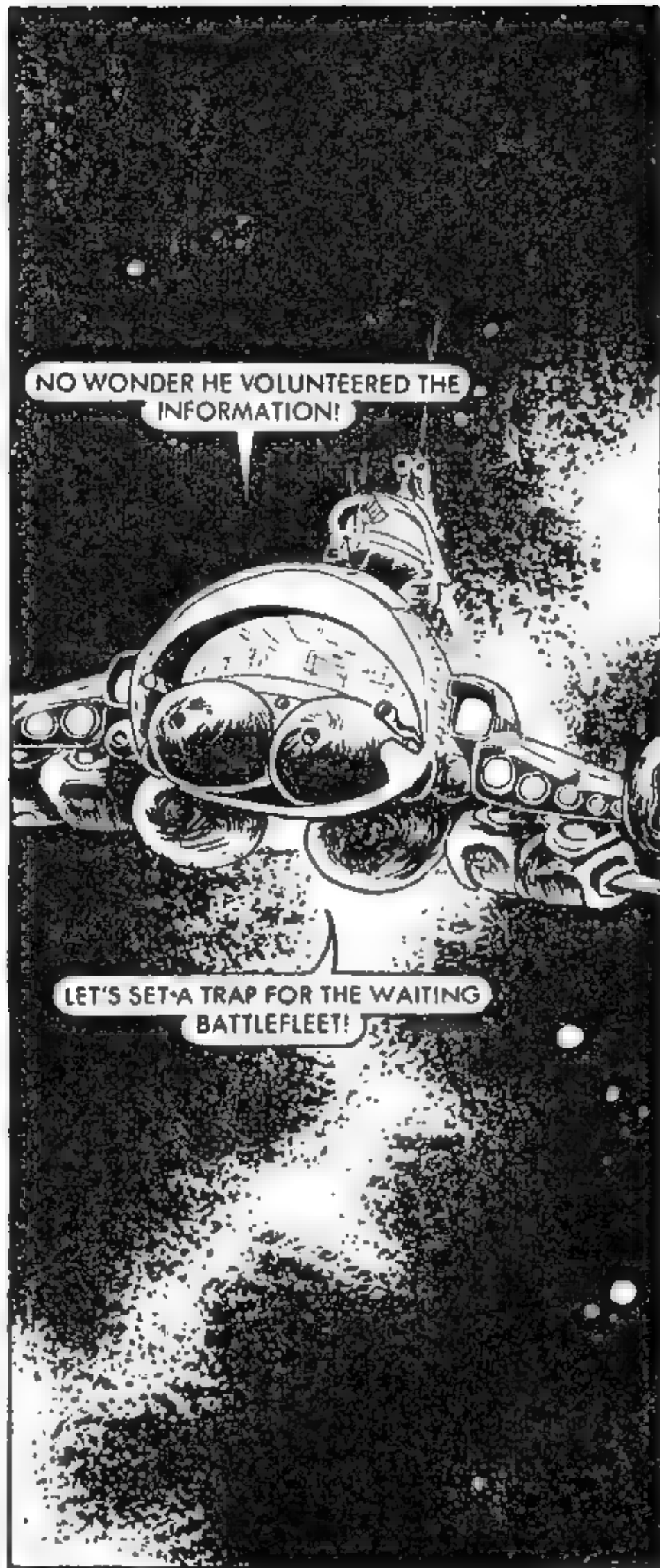
JERRY LISTENED TO THE OFFICER.

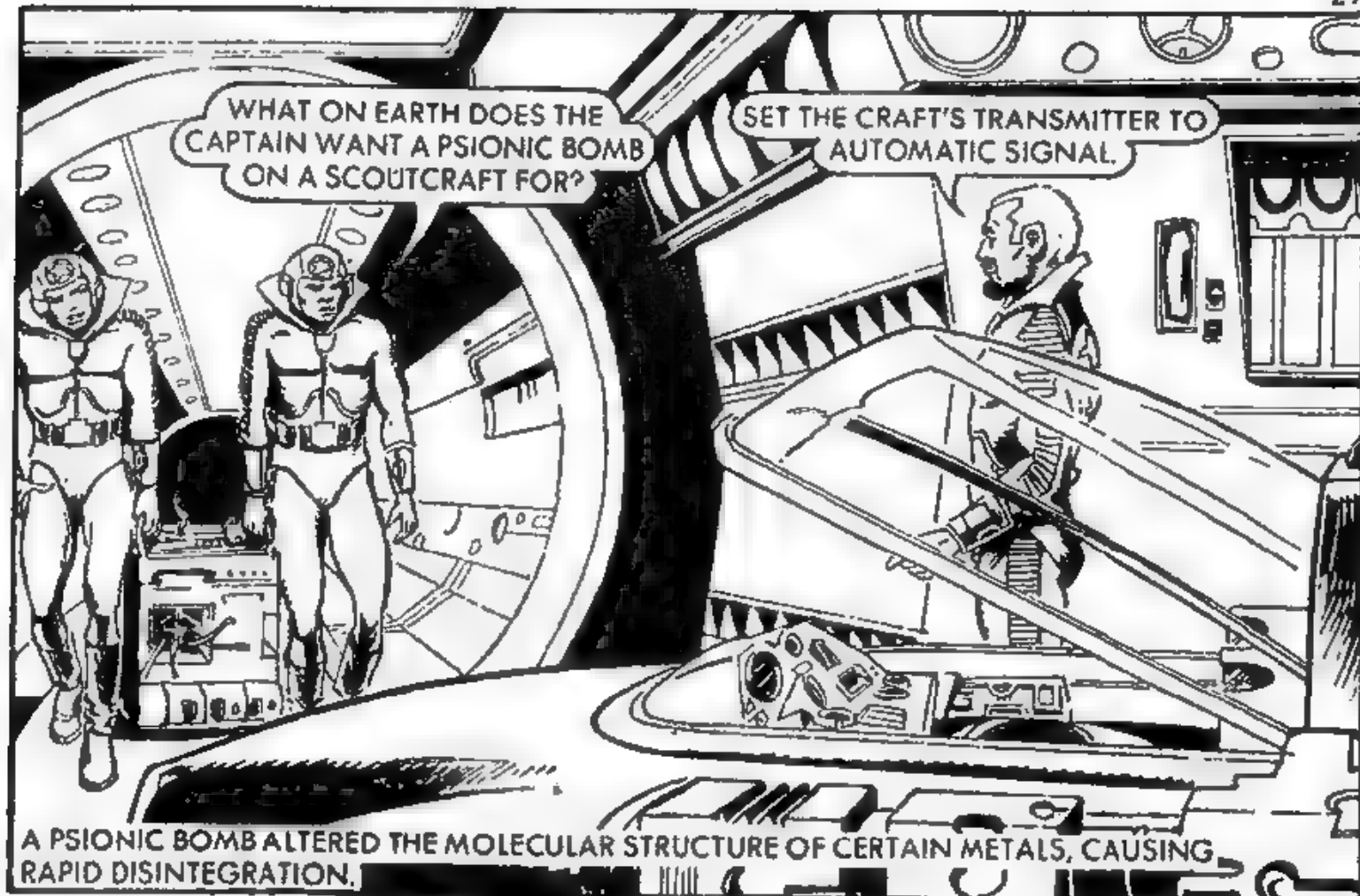


ONCE THE TRACE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, A TRACTOR BEAM WAS USED TO DRAG THE CAPSULE INTO A DOCKING HOLD.

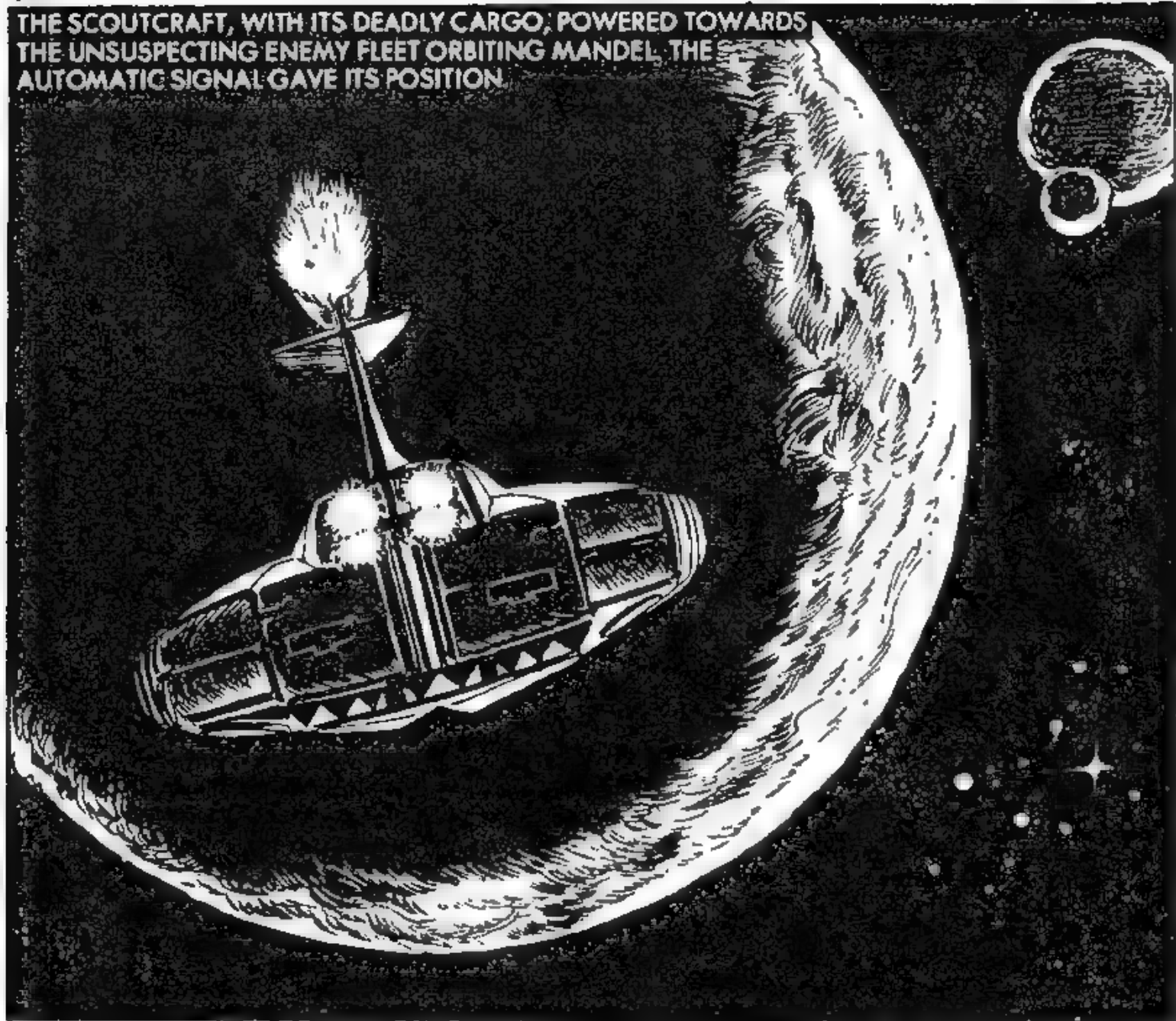






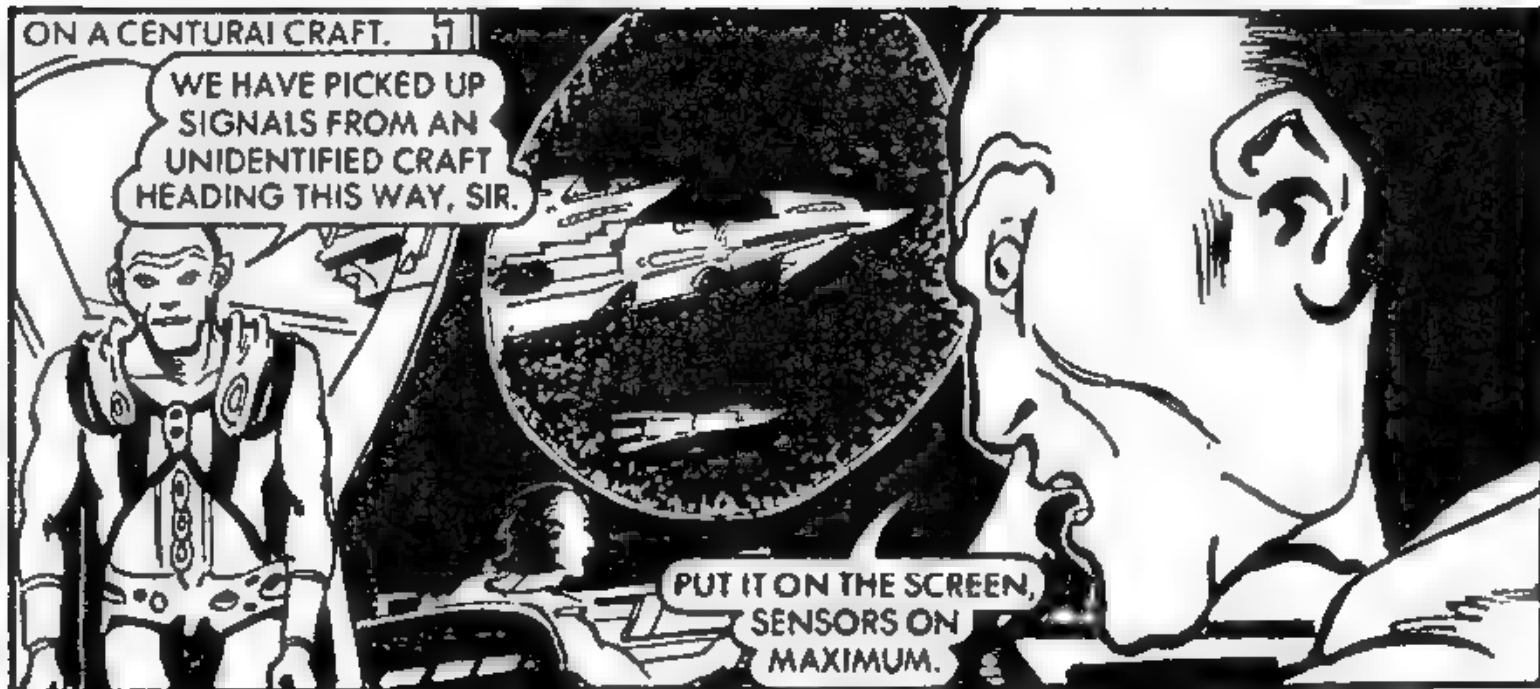


THE SCOUTCRAFT, WITH ITS DEADLY CARGO, POWERED TOWARDS THE UNSUSPECTING ENEMY FLEET ORBITING MANDEL. THE AUTOMATIC SIGNAL GAVE ITS POSITION.



ON A CENTURAI CRAFT.

WE HAVE PICKED UP SIGNALS FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT HEADING THIS WAY, SIR.





TWO TECHNICIANS OPENED THE CRAFT.

BY THE ...!
A PSIONIC BOMB!



SIR, WE'VE BEEN TRICKED ...
THERE'S A BOMB ON THE
SCOUTCRAFT!

WHAT!



BUT OPENING THE HATCH HAD TRIGGERED THE DETONATING MECHANISM



THE PSIONIC BOMB SET UP A CHAIN OF EXPLOSIONS.



WHAT A SHOW! THAT MUST BE ONE OF THE LARGEST LOSSES THE CENTURAI HAVE EVER TAKEN!

WE'VE STILL GOT TO FIND THE ADMIRAL!

LOAD AN INFO-ROCKET WITH A REPORT. SEND A COPY OF THE CENTURAI CODE AND GET IT OFF TO COMMAND. HAVE YOU FOUND WHERE THE ADMIRAL IS YET?

YES, JERRY, AND YOU WON'T LIKE IT!

ON CENTURAI ITSELF?



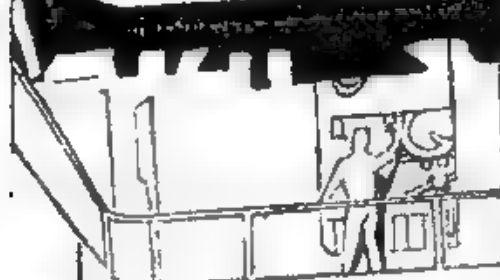


YES! RIGHT ON
THEIR HOME PLANET!

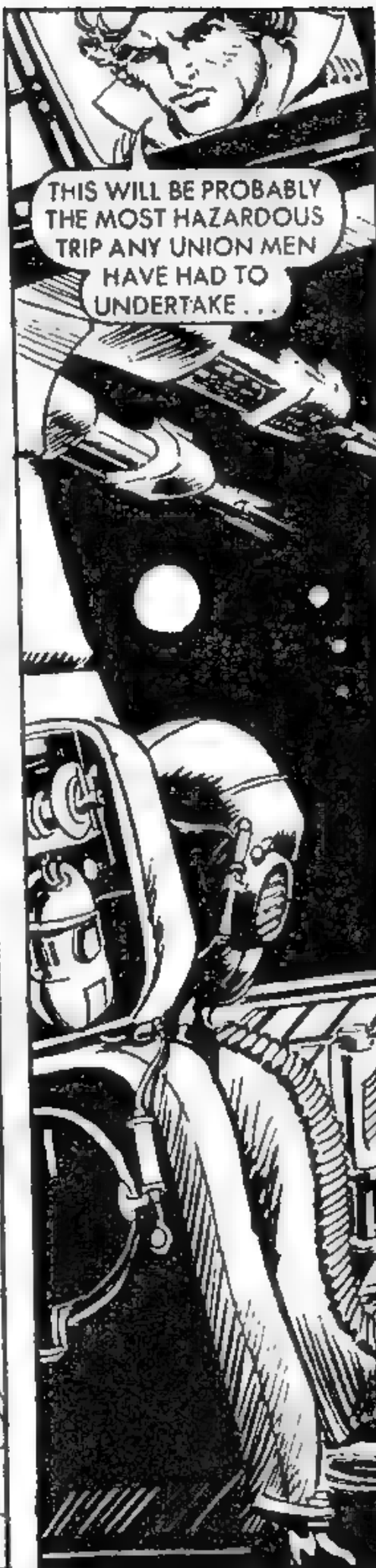
HOW ARE WE GOING TO
GET HIM OUT OF THERE?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT WE'VE GOT TO
TRY. PUT ME THROUGH TO THE
CREW!

ADMIRAL BRANT IS HELD
ON CENTURAI. WE MUST
TRY AND FREE HIM!



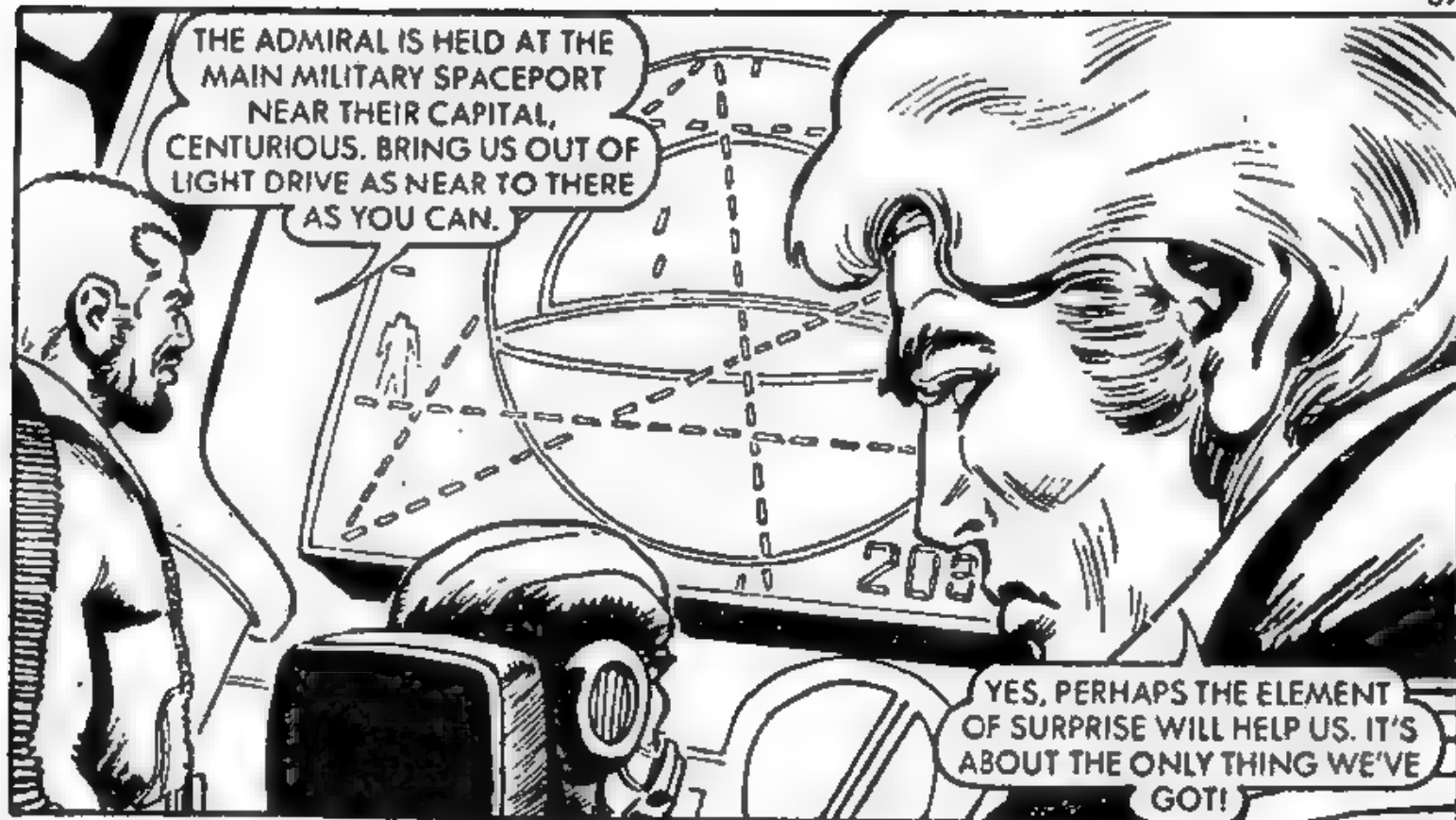
THIS WILL BE PROBABLY
THE MOST HAZARDOUS
TRIP ANY UNION MEN
HAVE HAD TO
UNDERTAKE...



... AND WE MIGHT NOT
MAKE IT BACK. GOOD
LUCK TO YOU ALL!



RATHER DIE FIGHTING
THAN ROT ON THE
GROUND!





THE CREW OF THE REVENGE WERE TAKEN TO THE MAIN MILITARY BASE.



GALLEN WAS TAKEN TO THE PRISON
GOVERNOR FOR QUESTIONING. II



IT WILL BE BETTER FOR BOTH YOU
AND YOUR CREW IF YOU TELL ME
SOMETHING ABOUT UNION
DEFENCES... AFTER ALL IT
DOESN'T MATTER TO YOU ANY
MORE, DOES IT?

GALLEN... CAPTAIN...
SERIAL NUMBER 2061956
... UNDER THE
ARTICLES OF THE
GALACTIC
CONVENTION, THAT IS
ALL I AM OBLIGED TO
TELL YOU.



VERY WELL, FOOL! YOU
CAN JOIN YOUR PRECIOUS
ADMIRAL IN THE CELLS.
WE'LL EXTRACT ALL WE NEED
FROM YOU IN THE
MORNING. VERY, VERY
PAINFULLY!

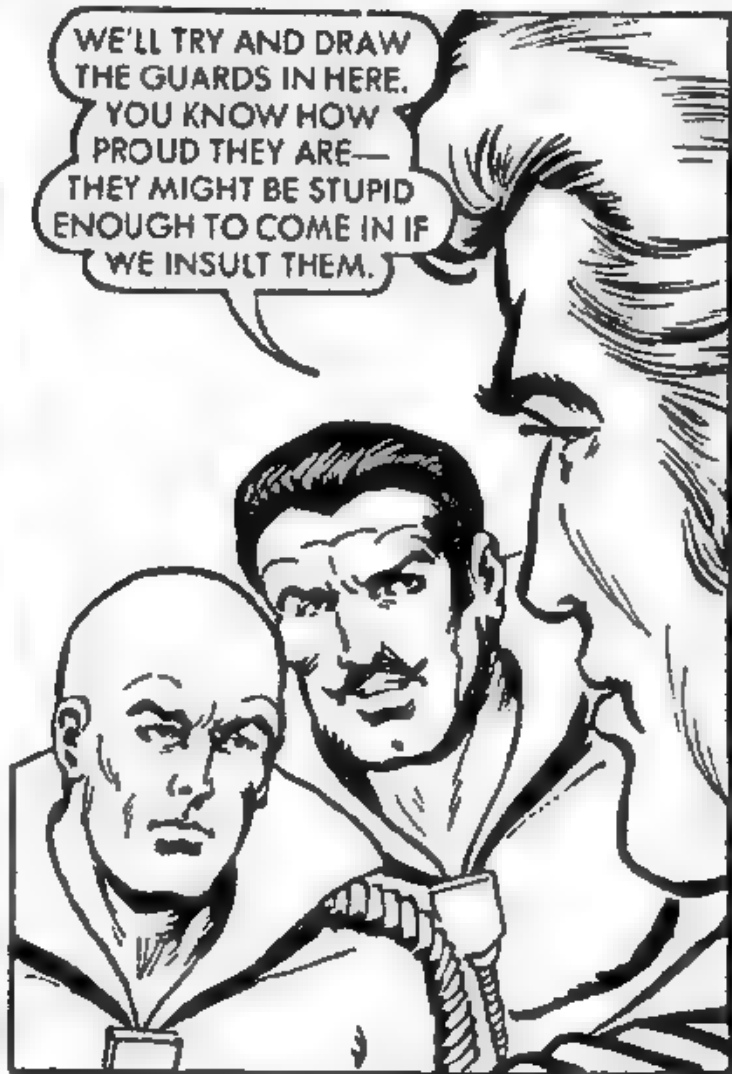
JERRY JOINED THE REST OF HIS CREW.

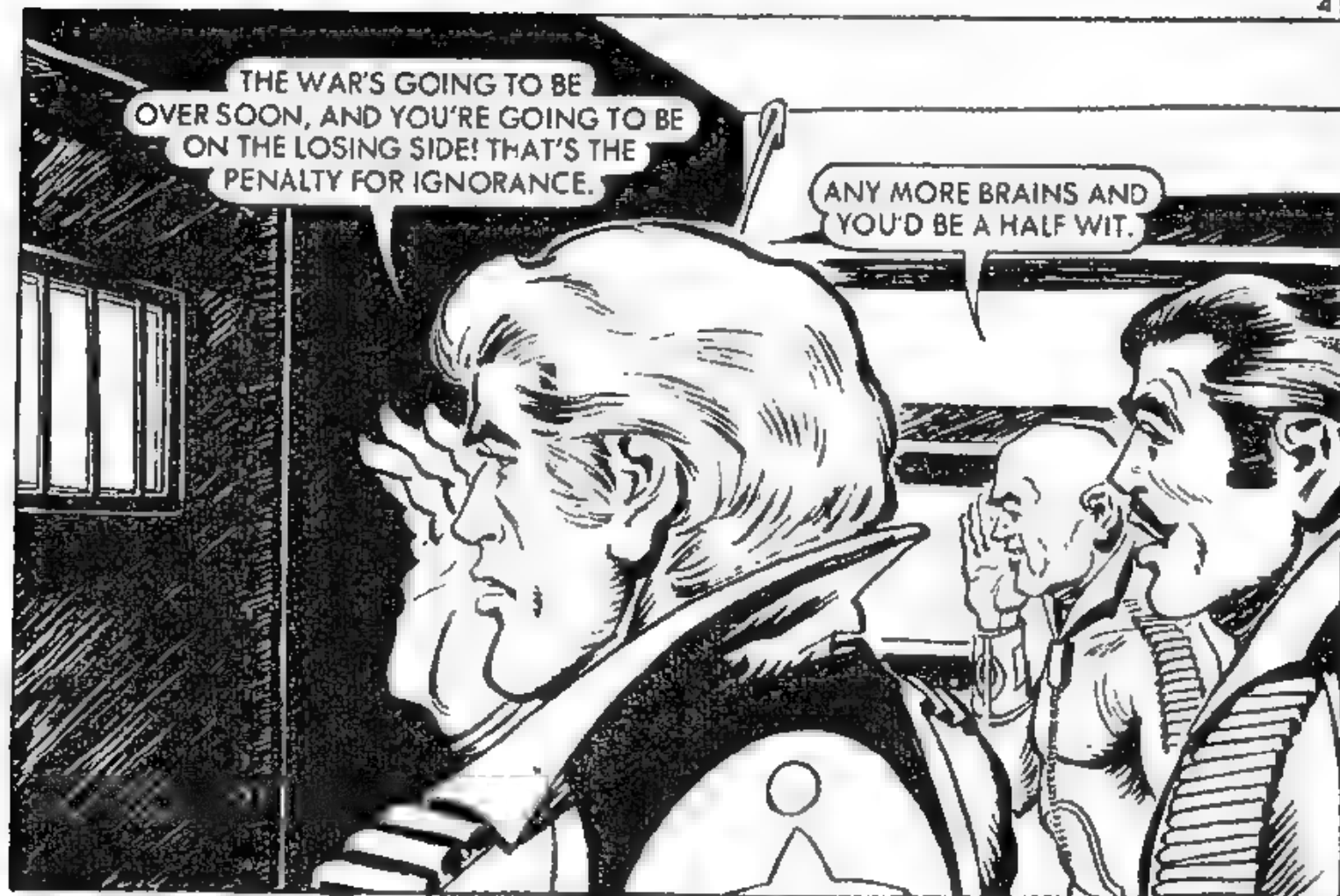


THE ADMIRAL'S IN ONE OF THESE CELLS, ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE. THEY ARE GOING TO TORTURE US FOR INFORMATION, IN THE MORNING. SO...



WE'LL TRY AND DRAW THE GUARDS IN HERE. YOU KNOW HOW PROUD THEY ARE—THEY MIGHT BE STUPID ENOUGH TO COME IN IF WE INSULT THEM.







THE UNIONISTS CAUGHT THE GUARDS UNAWARES.

WHAT THE...



NOW FOR THE CELL CODES!





THE SENATORS EXPLAINED.

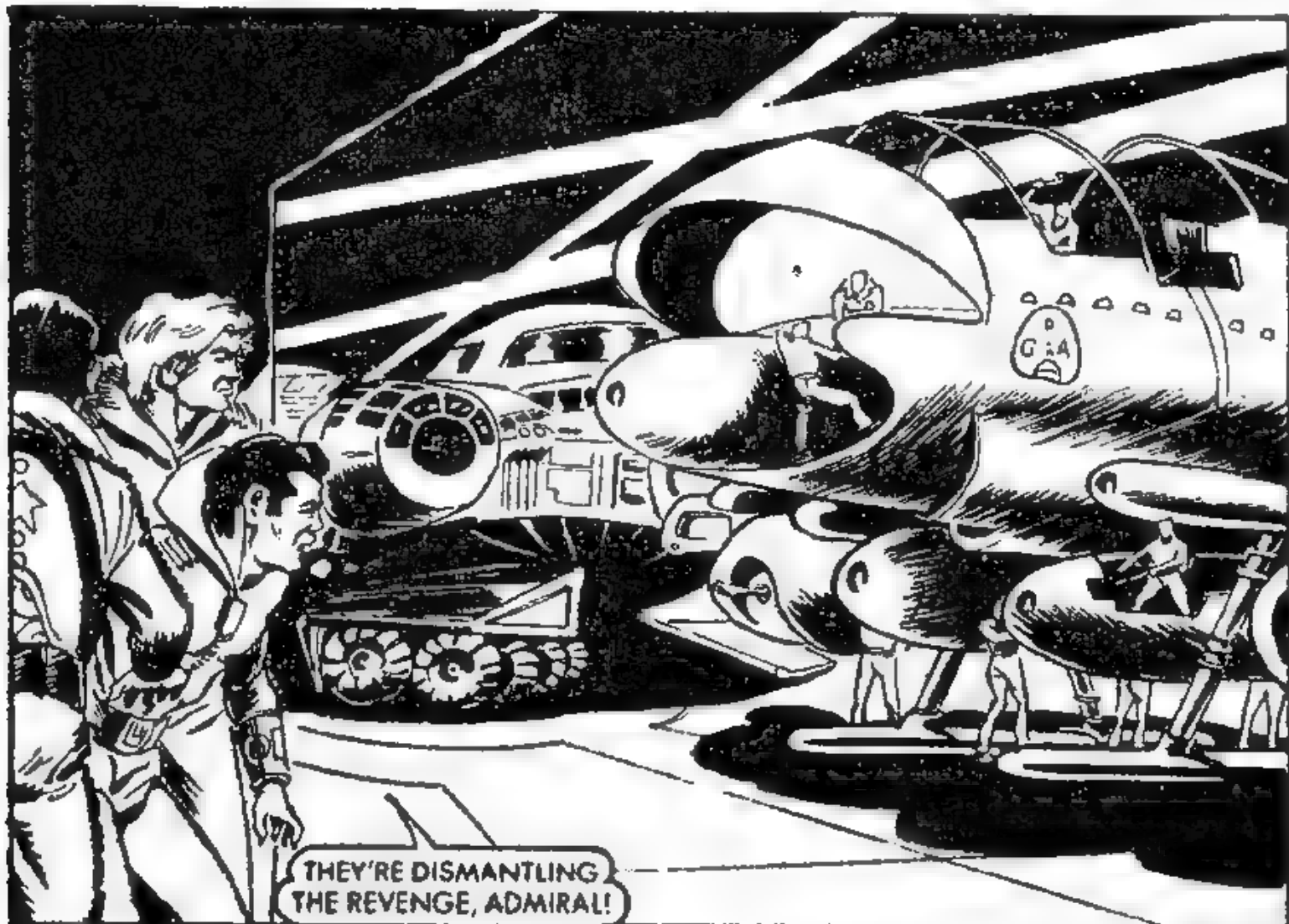
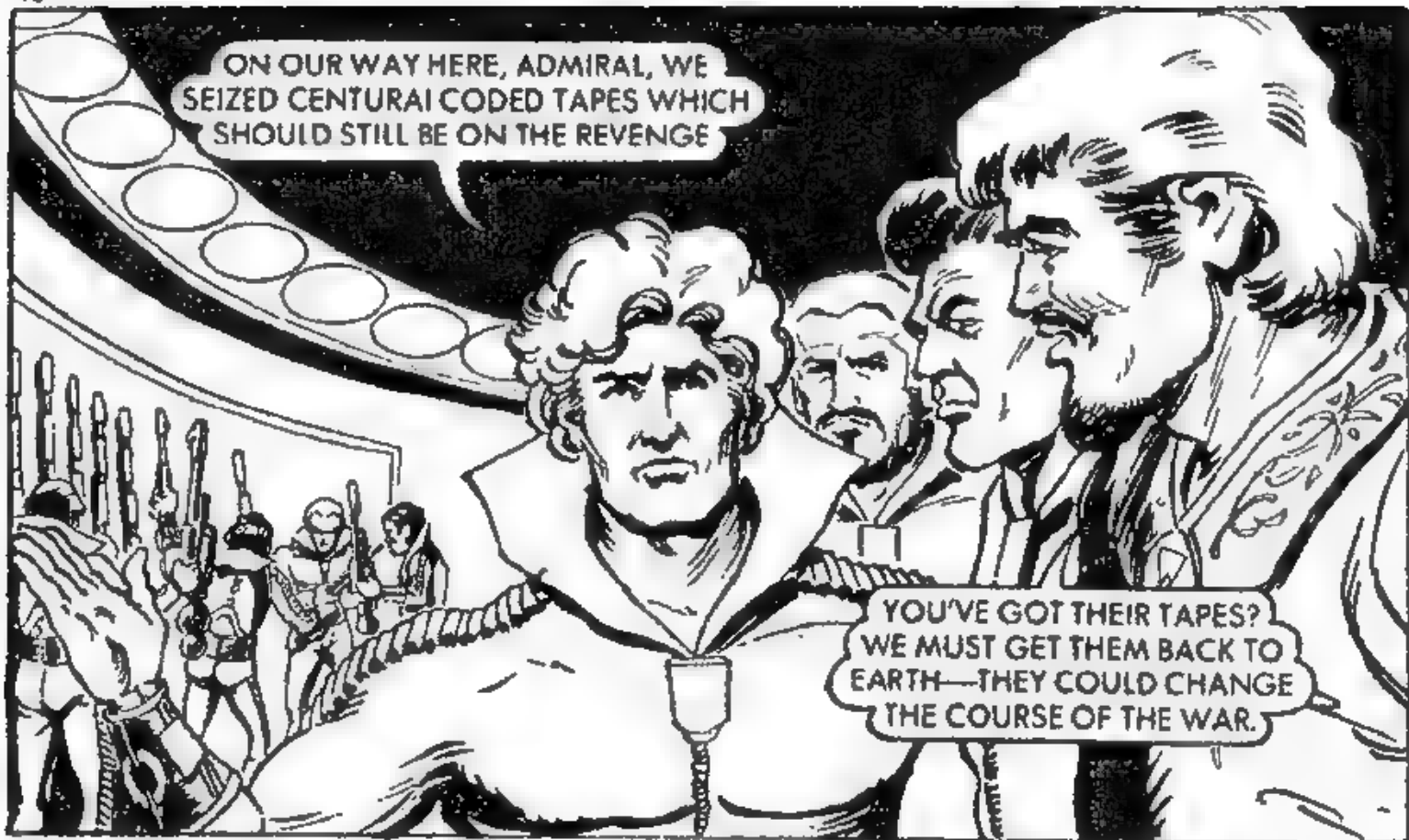
WHILE ON A PEACE MISSION HERE,
WE DISCOVERED A PLAN TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK
ON PRAXIS BEFORE THEY ABSORBED US INTO
THEIR EMPIRE. THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TO
CONQUER EARTH. THAT IS WHY THE ADMIRAL
WAS CAPTURED. AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME HE
WOULD HAVE BEEN DRAINED OF ALL HIS
INFORMATION



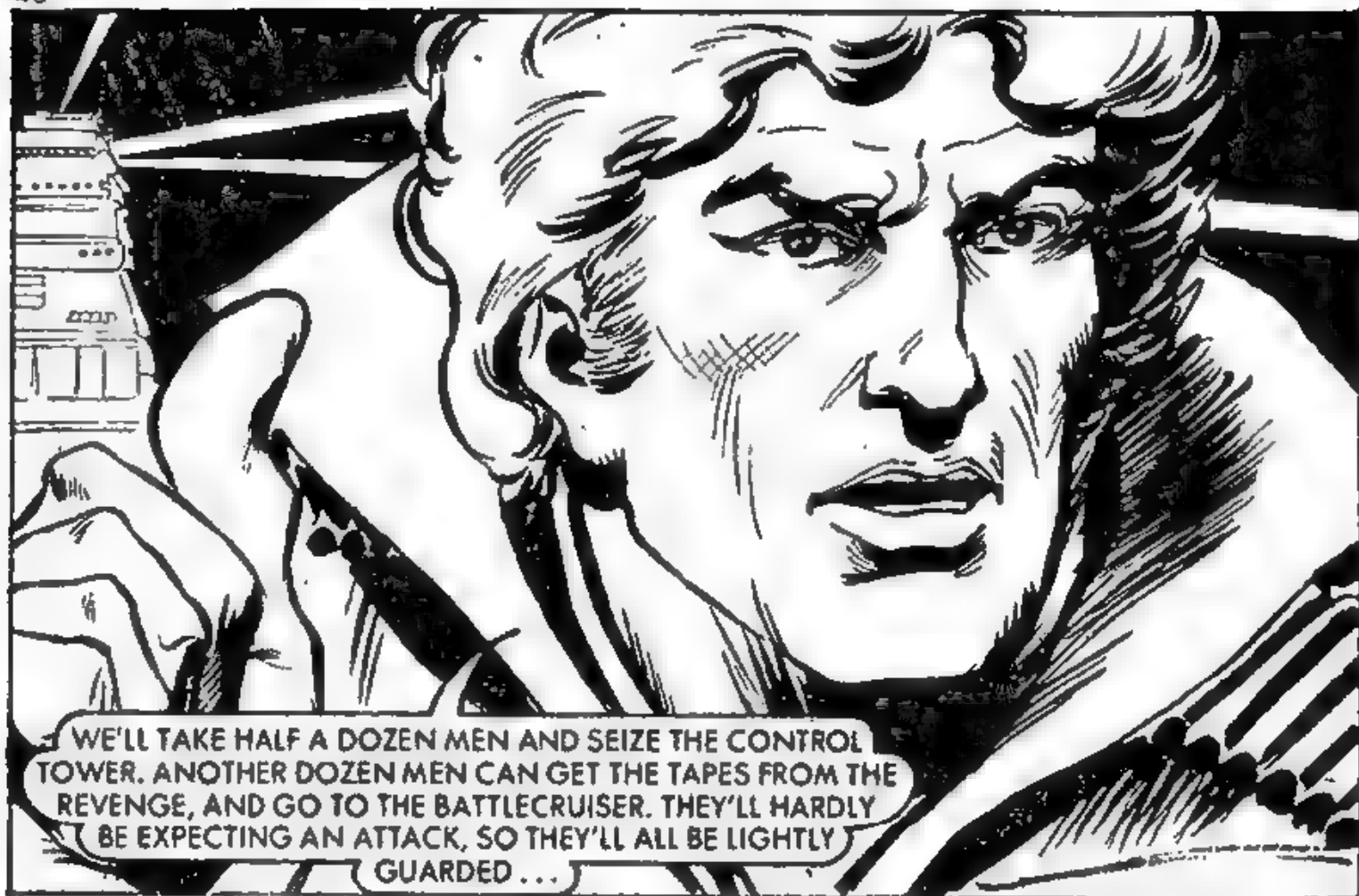
I SUGGEST WE ARM WHAT MEN WE
CAN AND FIGHT OUR WAY OUT.



WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO
REACH THE REVENGE, SIR.







WE'LL TAKE HALF A DOZEN MEN AND SEIZE THE CONTROL TOWER. ANOTHER DOZEN MEN CAN GET THE TAPES FROM THE REVENGE, AND GO TO THE BATTLECRUISER. THEY'LL HARDLY BE EXPECTING AN ATTACK, SO THEY'LL ALL BE LIGHTLY GUARDED ...



MEANWHILE, I'LL TAKE THE REST OF THE MEN IN THAT TROOP TRANSPORT AND STORM THIS BASE'S ONLY ENTRANCE. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO WORK OUT THE CONTROLS.

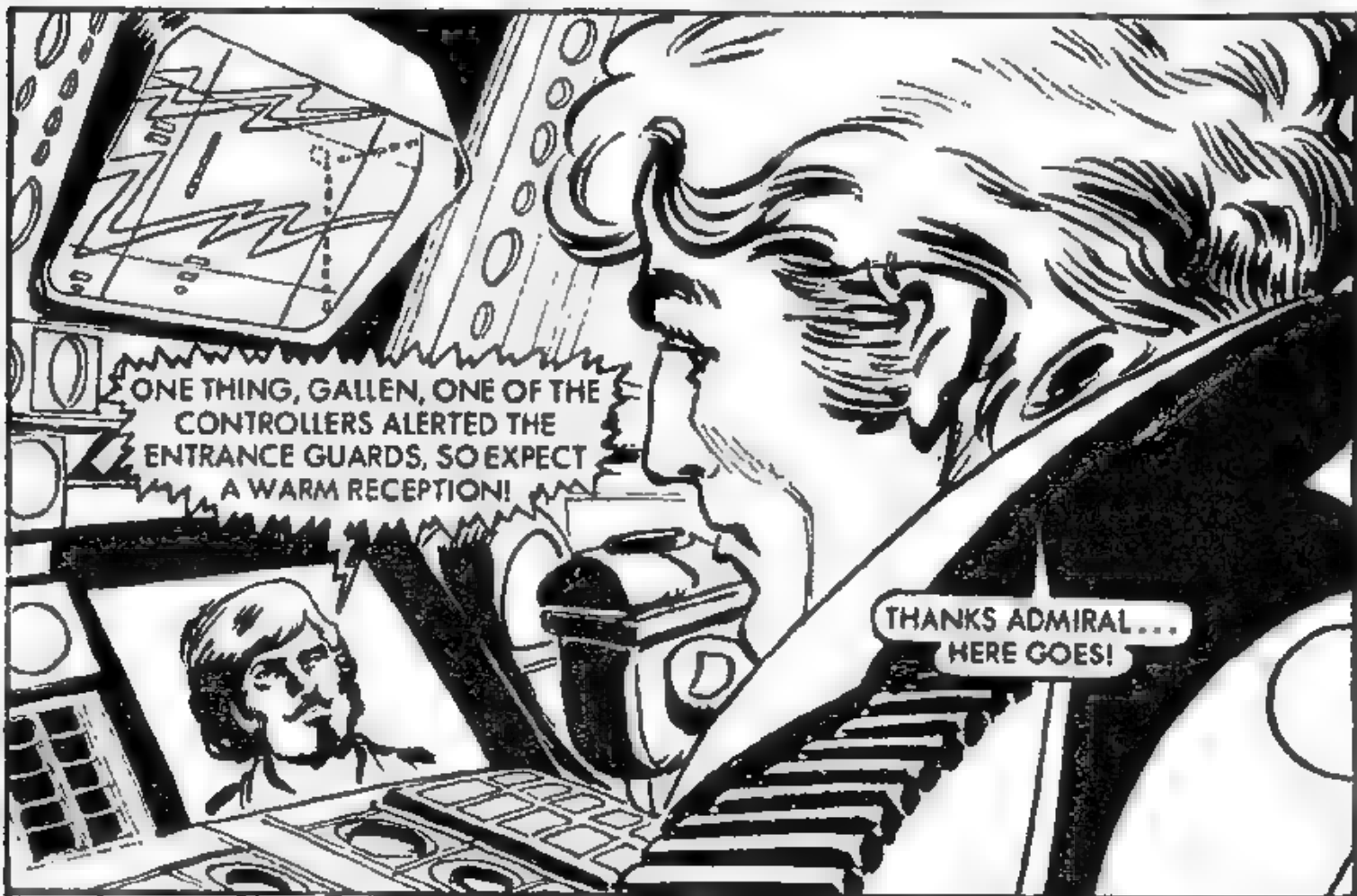
SOME OF THE REVENGE'S CREW STORMED ABOARD



TOO LATE... I HAVE
SENT A WARN...



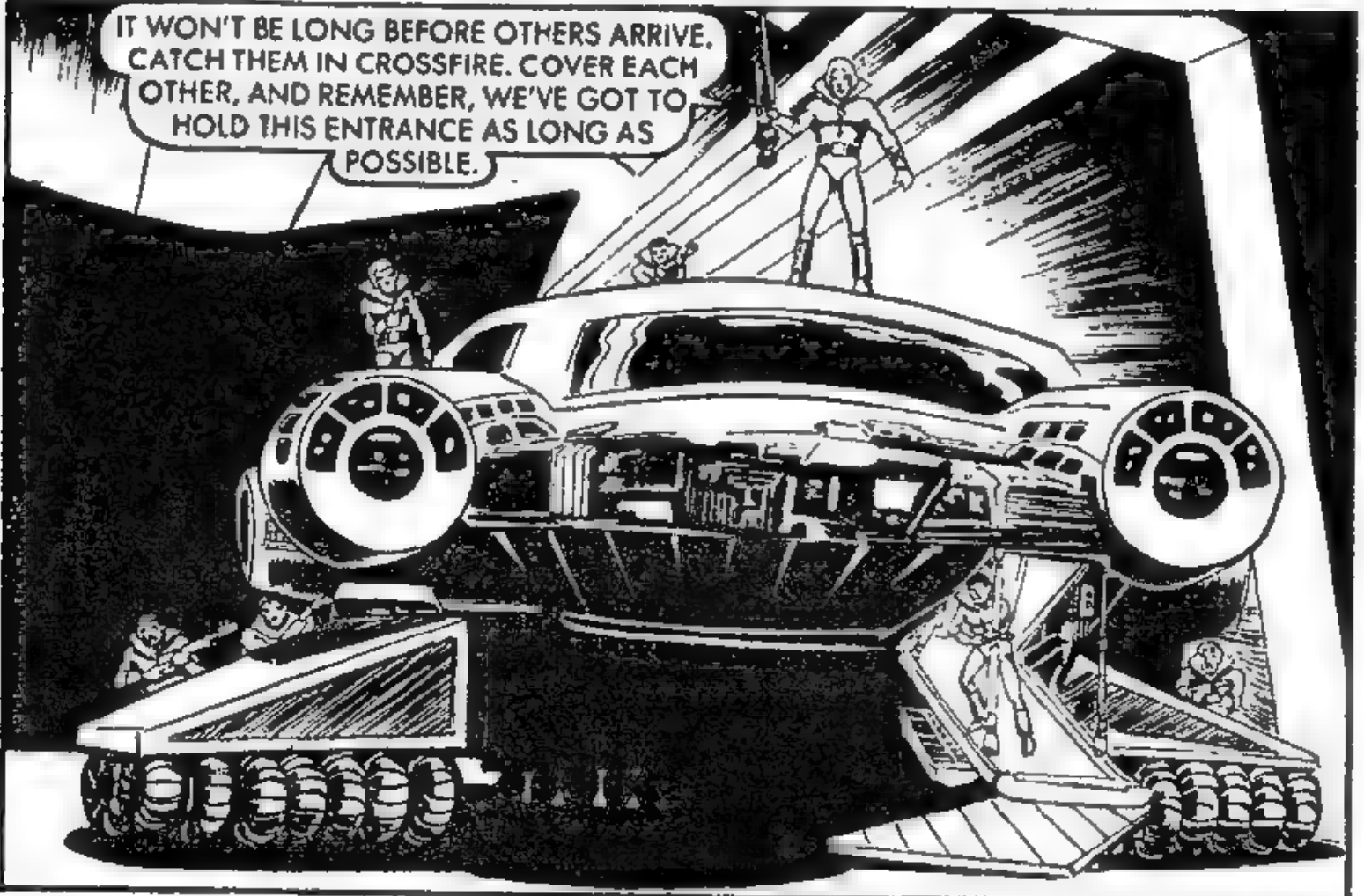
JERRY WAS IN A WAR TRACTOR.



THE CENTURAI DIDN'T LAST LONG!



IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE OTHERS ARRIVE.
CATCH THEM IN CROSSFIRE. COVER EACH
OTHER, AND REMEMBER, WE'VE GOT TO
HOLD THIS ENTRANCE AS LONG AS
POSSIBLE.





OKAY, ADMIRAL. WE'VE SECURED THE ENTRANCE,
AND THE MEN ARE IN POSITION.

SO FAR, SO GOOD. BUT...

... THE COMMANDER AT THE LOCAL BASE
HAS NOW BEEN ALERTED. EXPECT THINGS
TO WARM UP!

AT THE CENTRAL MILITARY BASE.

THE PRISONERS ARE RUNNING LOOSE
AT THE SPACEPORT. TAKE RED GROUP
AND CRUSH THEM!



BUT IN SPACE CONTROL.

SPACE CONTROL. THIS IS MILITARY
BASE. THE PRISONERS HAVE
ESCAPED. ORDER ONE OF BATTLE-
FLEET'S SHIPS TO LAND WITHIN THE
SPACEPORT PERIMETER AND GIVE
SUPPORT.

CONFIRMED, MILITARY BASE.

THEY DON'T KNOW YET THAT WE OCCUPY THE
SPACEPORT CONTROL TOWER.



RED GROUP ARRIVED.



GIVE THEM
ALL YOU'VE GOT!



THAT'S A SMALL ARMY
WE'RE FIGHTING!

I'LL CALL UP BASE. WE
NEED A LAND ASSAULT CRAFT!





GALLEN CONTACTED ADMIRAL BRANT.



ADMIRAL BRANT SENT OUT A FALSE MESSAGE.



ADMIRAL BRANT'S FAKE ORDER WAS FOLLOWED BY CENTURAI FIGHTERS.

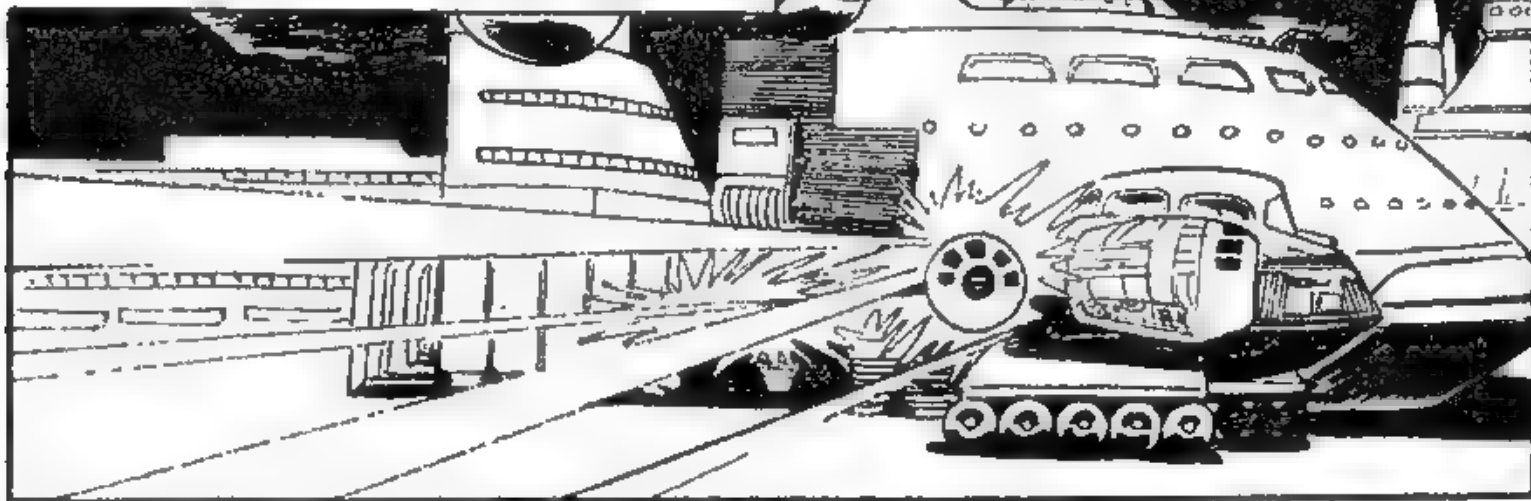





THE BATTLECRUISER IS
READY. GET OUT OF THERE!

WE'RE READY!

THE TRANSPORTER SPED ACROSS THE
SPACEPORT.

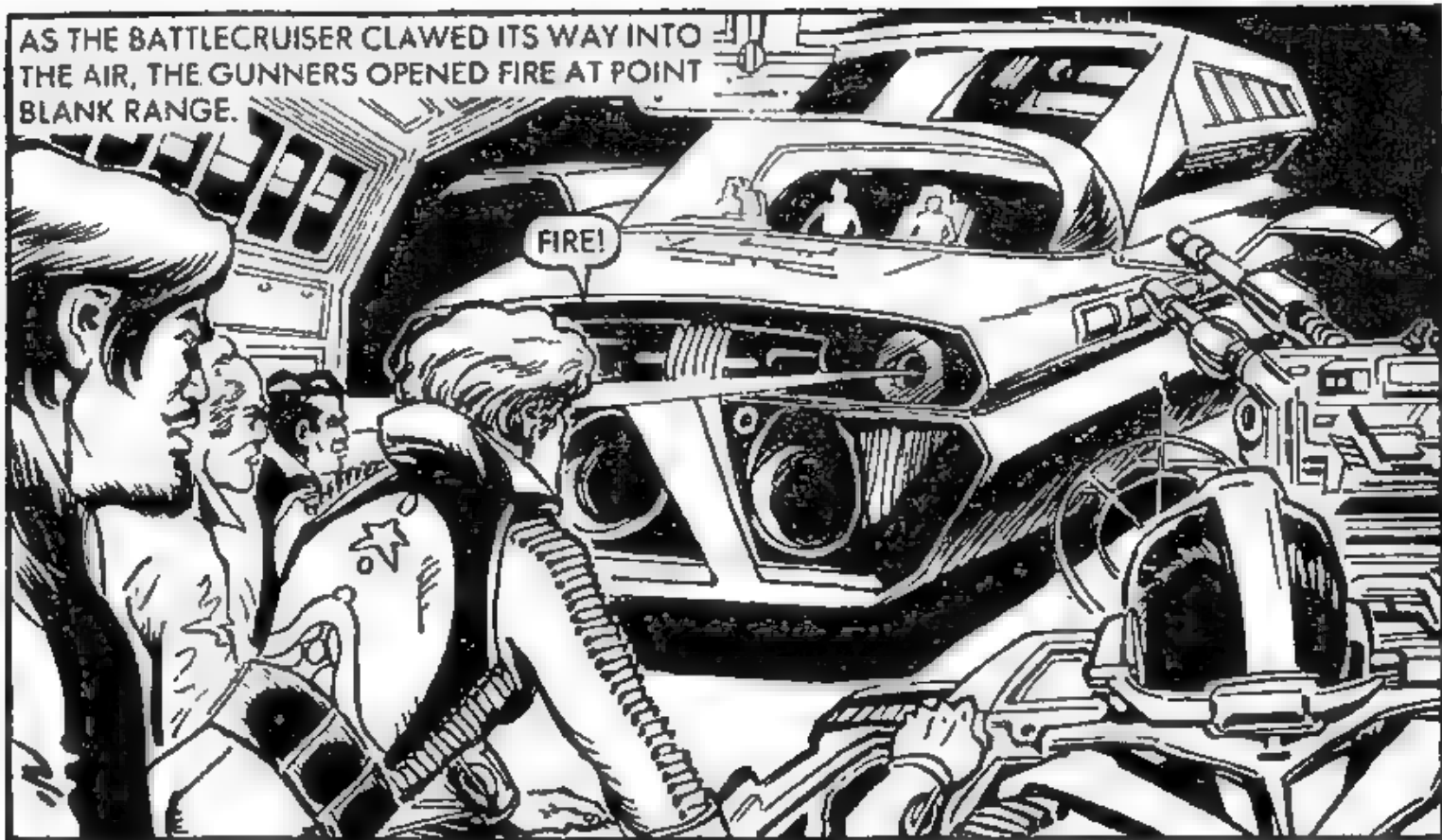




MOVE IT! LIFT OFF
IN THIRTY SECONDS.

HURRY IT UP, JERRY.
ENEMY FIGHTERS CLOSING
FROM THE RIGHT

AS THE BATTLECRUISER CLAWED ITS WAY INTO THE AIR, THE GUNNERS OPENED FIRE AT POINT BLANK RANGE.



LOOK AT THAT!



THEY HEADED FOR HOME.


A black and white comic panel showing a Centurai ship in space. The ship is a large, bulbous vessel with a conical nose and several windows. Two characters are visible in the cockpit. The ship is surrounded by a field of small, dark particles. In the upper left, there are several celestial bodies, including a large, cratered planet and a smaller, ringed planet. A speech bubble from the ship reads: "THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN. ERECT FULL FORCEFIELD AS SOON AS WE EMERGE FROM LIGHT DRIVE. WE MAY HAVE SOME TALKING TO DO!"

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN. ERECT FULL
FORCEFIELD AS SOON AS WE
EMERGE FROM LIGHT DRIVE. WE
MAY HAVE SOME TALKING TO DO!


UNION FIGHTERS INTERCEPTED THE CENTURAI SHIP IN EARTH ORBIT.

A black and white comic panel showing a Centurai ship in Earth orbit. The ship is on the right side of the panel. In the foreground, the nose of a Union fighter is visible, with a star emblem on its side. In the background, several other Union fighters are visible, some firing at the Centurai ship. A speech bubble from one of the Union fighters reads: "A CENTURAI BATTLECRUISER! OPEN FIRE!"

A CENTURAI BATTLECRUISER!
OPEN FIRE!



AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH,
OUR OWN PEOPLE ATTACK US.



TO UNION BATTLEFLEET.
THIS IS ADMIRAL BRANT
SPEAKING. THIS SHIP IS
MANNED BY UNION
FORCES. HOLD YOUR
FIRE. REPEAT—HOLD
YOUR FIRE!



DROP FORCESHIELD, COMMENCE LANDING
SEQUENCE.

AFTER LANDING JERRY GALLEN AND ADMIRAL BRANT EXPLAINED THE SITUATION.

A TRULY REMARKABLE STORY.
PLEASE ASSEMBLE
YOUR ENTIRE CREW ON THE
LANDING AREA TOMORROW.

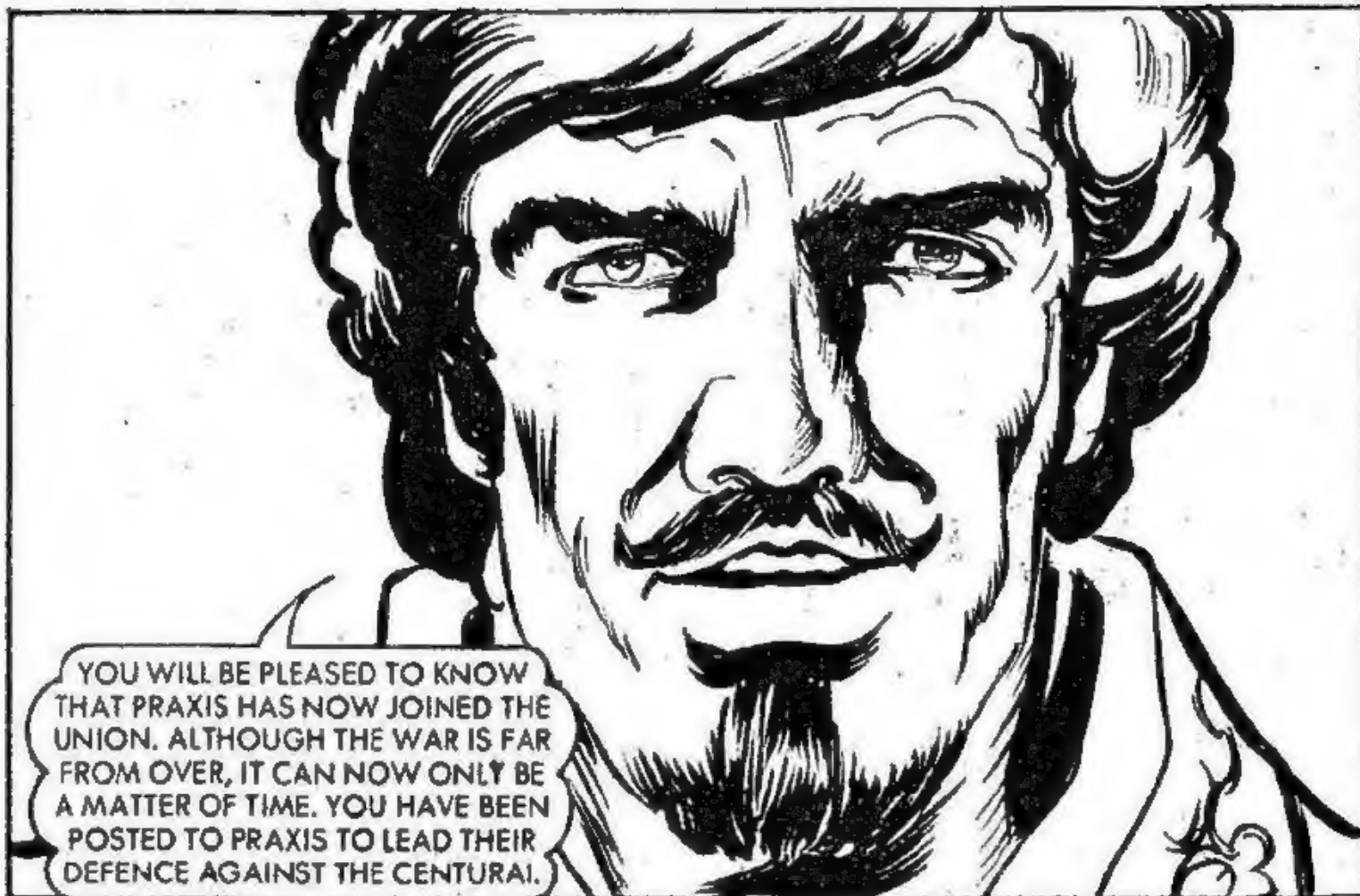
VERY GOOD, SIR!



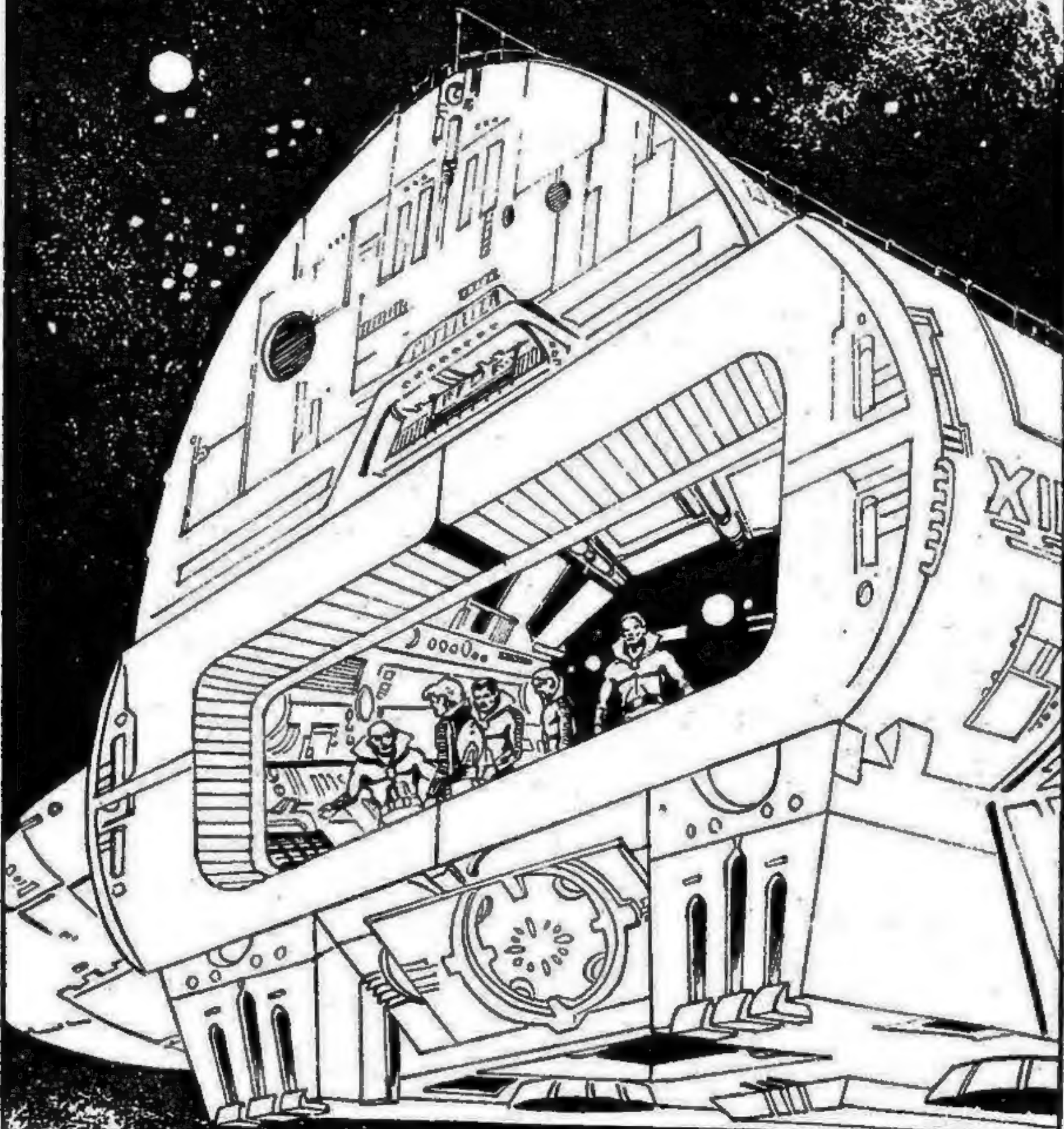
NEXT MORNING...

CAPTAIN GALLEN... ALL CHARGES AGAINST
YOU HAVE BEEN DROPPED. YOUR CREW HAVE
ALSO BEEN RE-INSTATED.





COMMANDER GALLEN'S NEW SHIP—REVENGE II HEADED FOR PRAXIS.



JERRY GALLEN HAD WON HIS PERSONAL BATTLE, AND NOW HE SET OUT TO WIN A WAR.

**NOW THAT YOU'VE READ
THIS**

STARBLAZER

12p

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No.15



**DON'T
FORGET
THAT
THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE THIS
MONTH**

**IT'S ON SALE IN
YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!**



STARBLAZERS

IN THE CONQUEST
OF SPACE

(14)

During the summer of 1964, Ranger 7 finally succeeded in obtaining the first close-ups of the lunar surface. Launched by an Atlas Agena rocket, seen here blasting off from Cape Kennedy, the American craft took three days to reach the Moon. As Ranger 7 plummeted towards the lunar surface its six TV cameras sent back a stream of photographs showing craters, boulders and what looked like a fairly solid, but dusty surface.